

# THE HUDSON TIMES

March 12, 2026 ♦ Volume 4 – Issue 10

A FREE Weekly Publication



**Steamy Sweetness** Phil Perron was busy on Sunday monitoring the evaporator in his small Sugar Shack on Jump Lane in Hudson. His hobby and love for maple syrup consumes a lot of his time during this time of year, his business, LMP Maple is currently in full production mode. *Photo by Chris Paul*

## Mixed-Use Project Near Benson Park Gets Unit Changes Approval

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Zoning Board of Adjustment met on Feb. 26 to review four variance requests for a proposed mixed-use and multifamily residential development on Central Street known as The Meadows. Although interest in mixed-use projects has grown in recent years, such developments in Hudson still require ZBA approval. One of the variances sought relief from the town's building height requirements.

"The project includes three residential apartment buildings within the south-central portion of the property, and one mixed-use building located along Central Street," explained appli-

cant Don Dumont, who noted that several changes had been made to the original design. "As we were going through the planning process, there were issues the architect found with the number of units and the building size."

Those changes resulted in a reduction of units and renewed discussion with the Planning Board. Dumont argued that the project would improve what he described as a "depressed area" of town without negatively altering the neighborhood's character.

"In the original two variances you went through and were granted with the first plan in October, there was one big building and

one small building. Why does that not work anymore?" asked Board member Tim Lanphear, who expressed concern about the scale of the proposal. "Is it crossing any wetlands?"

Dumont responded that the original plan was based on a specific unit count, and the revised layout was more efficient and allowed the buildings to "run together." He acknowledged a small wetland crossing but said the design avoided impacts whenever possible and included water quality testing.

At least nine residents submitted letters supporting the project, which Associate Planner Ben Witham-Gradert described as "a  
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## Committee Complaint Arise Over Pace of Town Hall Renovations

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The March meeting of the Hudson Budget Committee saw members push for greater scrutiny of several ongoing expenses and projects in town, with particular focus on the pace of the Town Hall Renovation Project. Town Administrator Roy Sorenson was present to answer questions.

"Can you give us an update on where that project stands?" asked Committee member Bill Cole.

Sorenson explained that much of the current discussion centers on how the renovation can move forward while meeting Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

"The question has be-

come whether we can use some of the funds that came from a warrant article to perhaps do some of that construction, and what the priority would be behind it," said Sorenson, noting that the town remains in contact with the Board of Selectmen. "We are identifying the shortcomings. It could be a budget item next year, it could be another warrant article, it could be anything. The focus is ADA compliance with the chairlift, the elevator, and the two bathrooms."

Selectman Liaison Xen Vurgaropoulos confirmed that the Board is "still reviewing it" with Director of Development Services Elvis Dhima.

Cole expressed frustra-

tion that the current approach seemed far more limited than what was originally envisioned.

"The options that came out of the Town Hall Renovation Project were: one, to make changes to this building as it currently stands; two, to make changes but add some sort of addition; three, to get town owned land and put in a new facility; and four, to buy non-town owned land and put in a facility," he said. "Do we have a plan? Is there a timeframe out there? Is anybody actually doing something?"

Sorenson responded that the earlier studies were more of a "request for information" than a concrete plan.

"That's a long view,  
**continued on page 4**

## Transition of Town's Sustainability Advisory Committee Discussed

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

A first reading of the proposed charter for Hudson's Sustainability Advisory Committee sparked a broader discussion at the most recent Board of Selectmen meeting, one that questioned whether the committee should continue as a town body at all, or instead transition into an

independent nonprofit organization.

Board of Selectmen Chair Dillon Dumont opened the conversation by sharing that he had spoken with several committee members about the idea ahead of the meeting. He said he hoped the Sustainability Committee would take up the topic at its next session.

"They should work more toward a nonprofit," Dumont said. "I think that they would be better served doing it that way. I think that they would get out from underneath some of our policies. They could run and function the way that they want to."

Dumont added that becoming a nonprofit could  
**continued on page 3**

# Don Kirkland Nominated For Annual Loyalty Day Award

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Board of Selectmen took time at its most recent meeting to recognize the work of one of the town's behind-the-scenes contributors, as members considered their annual nomination for the Hudson VFW Post 5791 Loyalty Day Award. Each year, the VFW asks the town to identify a municipal employee, excluding police and fire personnel, whose work has meaningfully supported the well-being of the community.

"As part of its Annual Loyalty Day awards program, Hudson VFW Post 5791 has requested that the Board of Selectmen provide the name and biography of a Town employee, other than a member of the police and fire departments, who has

made a contribution to the well-being of the community," Town Administrator Roy Sorenson wrote in a memo to the Board.

This year, Sorenson recommended Civil Engineer Don Kirkland, who has served the Town of Hudson since 2020.

"Don has been employed by the Town of Hudson as the Civil Engineer since 2020 and has helped the Engineering Division promulgate requirements set forth by federal and state law," Sorenson explained. "His abilities as a professional engineer with a discipline in environmental engineering has assured the town understands and meets all compliance standards."

Sorenson emphasized that Kirkland's contributions extend well beyond

technical expertise.

"One of Don's greatest attributes is his willingness to be a team player and help in any way he can, notwithstanding outside of his duties and responsibilities," he said. "Moreover, he has demonstrated sound engineering judgment, allowing Mr. Dhima to delegate more responsibilities to him for implementation. This played a key role in forming the new Development Services Department. Don is a pleasure to work with and brings a positive attitude to everything he does, which does not go unnoticed."

Attached to the memo was a detailed narrative outlining Kirkland's qualifications and impact on the town. The letter highlighted both his professional ac-

complishments and the personal qualities that have made him a valued member of Hudson's staff.

"It is with great appreciation that we recognize Don Kirland, P.E., Civil Engineer for the Town of Hudson, for his outstanding service since joining the Town on Oct. 5, 2020," the letter begins. "A graduate of Tufts University with a degree in Environmental Engineering and a Licensed Professional Engineer in the State of NH, Don consistently demonstrates the highest standards of professionalism, technical expertise, and dedication to public service."

The recognition notes Kirkland's vital role in protecting Hudson's environmental and infrastructure interests. He oversees land-fill compliance, plays a cen-

tral role in MS4 storm-water permit implementation, and provides technical review and field oversight for construction projects across town. He also regularly supports the Conservation Commission and Municipal Utility Committee with clear, informed engineering guidance.

But the letter also highlights the human side of his work.

"While Don is a consummate professional, his impact is extended even more genuinely by his personality," it reads. "He is a joy to work with and will help in any way he can, which fosters effectiveness and positivity in the workplace. His willingness to support others as necessary has helped navigate the transformation of the reor-

ganization into the Development Services Department."

The letter concludes by noting that Kirkland lives in Derry with his wife, Sandra, and their son, Alex, and expresses gratitude for his continued service to the community.

Board of Selectmen Chair Dillon Dumont voiced his full support for the nomination.

"I just want to say I was happy to see this," Dumont said. "I completely agree with you. Don's an asset to the town."

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to nominate Don Kirkland for the 2026 Hudson VFW Post 5791 Loyalty Day Award, recognizing his dedication, professionalism, and positive impact on the community.

# Board of Selectmen Approves Purchase of Suppressors

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the purchase of new suppressors for the Police Department at its most recent meeting, following a detailed explanation from Police Chief David Cayot about the department's recent rifle upgrades and the safety concerns associated with them.

Cayot explained that the department had recently replaced its aging rifles

using Public Safety Funds.

"The Police Department recently purchased 25 Sig Sauer Patrol Rifles using Public Safety Funds to replace the department's aging weapons," Cayot wrote in a memo to the Board.

The new rifles, shortbarreled 5.56 patrol rifles, produce extremely high noise levels when fired, prompting the department to request suppressors for certain specialized units.

Cayot noted that the two additional suppressors re-

quested at this time would be issued to members of the department's Clandestine Lab Team, who often operate in confined or hazardous environments.

"The new rifles have an approximate decibel level of 165 to 170 dBs. Anything over 140+ dBs is considered 'painful and dangerous; can cause immediate and severe hearing damage,'" Cayot wrote. "The above listed suppressor lowered the dBA at the shooter's ear to an average

of 139.43."

He emphasized that suppressors are not only about reducing noise, they also improve officer safety and performance.

"Suppressors have several other benefits aside from preserving ear health, including recoil reduction, increased accuracy, and muzzle flash reduction," he wrote.

During the meeting, Cayot addressed a common question: how often officers actually fire their rifles.

"Every sworn officer completes a minimum of eight hours of rifle training at the range every year, and our SOU members com-

plete 60 to 80 hours of live rifle fire per year," he said. "So it's a fair amount of shooting, and at those decibels, one or two shots is enough, if you don't have hearing protection on - to actually ruin your hearing permanently."

While Hudson has not yet had a workers' compensation claim related to hearing loss from rifle fire, Cayot noted that other agencies have.

Selectman Heidi Jakoby voiced strong support for the request.

"To me it's such an important thing to be able to use the rifle with less harm to the individual using it

and to those surrounding that person," she said.

The Board voted unanimously to waive competitive bidding requirements and award the purchase to Sig Sauer, the manufacturer of the department's new rifles.

The Board also approved the purchase of 27 Sig Sauer SLXC Suppressors for \$30,159, with funding coming from the Police Duty Weapons Replacement Capital Reserve Fund.

The purchase ensures that the department's new rifles will be fully equipped for safe and effective use, particularly during high-risk operations.

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until sold out

at American Legion Hudson Post 48  
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**Donation of \$15 per Plate**  
**(Children 12 and under \$10 per plate)**

The Dinner will include traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage.

# Firefighter Offer Rescinded, Easter Egg Hunt Canceled

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

A routine personnel update and a brief announcement about a popular community event highlighted portions of the most recent Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting.

One agenda item involved formally rescinding the Board's previous vote to hire Eric LaFrancis as a Firefighter/AEMT. Town Administrator Roy Sorenson explained that the action was necessary to keep the town's records accurate.

"It's just by virtue of making sure we have the record straight," Sorenson said. "We should amend that motion... One of the candidates who we were going to employ is no longer interested and has withdrawn their interest in the position."

Fire Chief Dave Tice provided additional background in a memo to the Board. He noted that LaFrancis had received a conditional offer of employment on Feb. 12, 2026, with a planned start date of March 16. However, after

discussions with his current department leadership in Plaistow, he ultimately chose to remain there.

"Per an email he sent to Deputy Paquette on February 23, 2026, after meeting with his current department Chief and follow up discussions with them, he has decided to remain with Plaistow Fire and withdraw his employment with the Town of Hudson," Tice wrote.

In his email to the Hudson Fire Department, LaFrancis expressed appreciation for the offer:

"After much thought and reflection I have come to the decision that staying with Plaistow would be in my best interest... They have come with a comparable offer that makes more sense for me to stay in Plaistow at this point in my life. I truly appreciate the offer and time, and apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused."

The Board unanimously approved amending its Feb. 10 motion, which had originally authorized hiring LaFrancis at a contracted salary of \$33.85 per hour,

step 6, under the International Association of Firefighters Local #3154.

Benson Park Update and Event Cancellation

During liaison reports, Selectman Heidi Jakoby provided an update on the Benson Park Advisory Committee. She noted renewed enthusiasm among committee members and said she expected the group's updated charter to come before the Board soon.

"We've had a few members saying there's new excitement around that committee, and I'm hoping

that charter will also come before us shortly," Jakoby said.

She also announced that the Benson Park Easter Egg Hunt, a well attended annual event, has been canceled for this year.

"So that event will not be happening, in case you saw it on the agenda last week," she said. No additional details were provided during the meeting regarding the reason for the cancellation.

The next Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting is set for March 24 at 7 p.m.

## Sustainability

Continued from page 1  
open new funding opportunities.

"Quite frankly, I think their budget would increase significantly with the donations they would be able to bring in that way, and possibly get set up for charitable gaming," he said.

Dumont explained that, like any nonprofit in town, the group would be incorporated and operate independently, while still being able to offer recommendations to town departments and the Board of Selectmen.

"They would be separate from the town, but they still would be able to make advisements and recommendations," he said. "I just see what they're going

for, the bigger picture of it. I think a lot more could be achieved if looked in that direction."

He emphasized that the discussion was only a starting point and that no decisions were being requested at this stage.

Selectman Heidi Jakoby said she had been thinking along similar lines.

"One of my questions was, if they become a nonprofit, then they wouldn't necessarily be an advisory committee," she said.

Dumont confirmed that the existing committee would be dissolved if the group chose to reorganize.

"The Board of Selectmen would eliminate it, and they would become an incorporated entity at that point and set their own

rules through their own bylaws," he said.

Jakoby reflected on the committee's origins, noting that it was created during a period when significant state and federal rebates were available for energy efficiency upgrades.

"There was a clear purpose when it was formed," she said. "There was a lot of updating of lights, and a lot of money out there to be had for many of our departments. And from my understanding, they did an excellent job both with police and fire, all over this town."

But she noted that those funding avenues have largely dried up.

"That money doesn't really exist anymore," she said. "However, there is a large educational piece to it. So I agree with you, I

question this role. Especially the educational piece. Is that better served somewhere else? Has this committee done its time in this way, and is it necessary?"

Dumont said he had spoken with Debbie Putnam, one of the committee's longest serving members, who acknowledged that the group's mission has evolved over time.

"She told me flat out that when it was started there was a direct purpose that changed," Dumont said. "There was conversation about disbanding and then them regrouping and kind of morphing into what we see here today, which is fine."

But he echoed Jakoby's question about whether the advisory model still fits.

"I'm just wondering, to

your point, has it kind of run its course, at least for an advisory committee for the town?" he said. "I think with what they've done and what they can do, a pitch for them to be a nonprofit would be a very easy sell. But again, I'm not on that committee."

The Board agreed that

the Sustainability Committee should place the topic on its next meeting agenda. That meeting is scheduled for the day before the next Board of Selectmen meeting later this month, giving members an opportunity to discuss the idea and potentially offer feedback to the Select Board.

## OBITUARY

### Ralph E. Parker



Ralph E. Parker passed away Feb. 19, 2026, at the age of 89 after declining health. He is survived by his loving wife Rosemary (Powers) Parker after 67 years of marriage, his son Paul Parker of Litchfield and daughter Kathy-Jean (Parker) Messier and her husband Daniel Messier of Nashua. Ralph was a kind and loving grandfather to 4 grandchildren, Derek Messier of Pembroke, Lauren Messier and fiancé Kyle Milligan of Nashua, William and Kailey of Litchfield. He is also survived by 3 great-grandchildren, Haylee Messier and Parker and Eli Milligan.

Ralph was a life-long resident of Hudson, NH. He was pre-deceased by his parents Edward and Grace (Connell) Parker and his brother David Parker.

Ralph loved family get-togethers, dinner dances and traveling with Rosemary and friends. Ralph loved golfing and ran the golf league at Whip-poor-will Golf course in Hudson for many years. He was also in many bowling leagues. Ralph was in the Air National Guards and a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus. He was employed by Sanders, Centronics and ComputerVision.

Ralph will truly be missed. Calling hours will be March 21, at Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Ferry St., Hudson, from noon - 1:30 p.m. followed by a Prayer Service at 1:30 p.m. in the funeral home. Burial will be private. To share an online message of condolence, please visit [www.dumontsullivan.com](http://www.dumontsullivan.com). The Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Homes in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

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# Editorial

## Let the Sun Shine In, Especially Here at Home

Open and transparent government is not a courtesy; it is a fundamental right. Residents deserve to know how decisions are made, how money is spent, and how their elected officials conduct the people's business. At every level; local, state, and national; transparency is the backbone of public trust. And at the local level, where decisions touch our daily lives most directly, openness matters even more. As a community newspaper, we take that responsibility seriously.

March 15 to 21 is Sunshine Week, a national reminder that government conducts its business in the open, it's essential to a functioning democracy. If we don't know what our officials are doing, we cannot hold them accountable. The more information residents have, the stronger and more engaged our community becomes.

Knowledge is power, and that power does not belong to politicians. It belongs to the people who elect them, fund their budgets, and live with the consequences of their decisions. Sunshine Week, created by the American Society of News Editors, is not about newspapers. It is about the public's right, and we emphasize that word, to know what its government is doing. It encourages every citizen to take an active role in government and demands that officials make information accessible, not hidden behind closed doors.

James Madison wrote that "consent of the governed" requires that people "arm themselves with the power which

knowledge gives." In a participatory democracy, every citizen has the right to attend meetings, access public records, and understand how decisions are made. That principle applies just as strongly here in our own towns as it does in Washington.

And this is where the conversation becomes local. Too often, transparency issues arise not in faroff capitals but right here at home. When meeting packets are posted late, when documents are withheld, when major discussions happen off the record, or when residents must file RighttoKnow requests just to understand basic decisions, trust erodes. Transparency is not simply following the letter of the law; it is embracing the spirit of it. Posting documents early. Explaining decisions clearly. Welcoming questions instead of avoiding them. Making it easy, not difficult, for residents to understand what is happening.

We know it is easier for officials to discuss public business privately, where strategies can be aired without scrutiny. But that is not how open government works. Discussions are meant to be public, in a quorum, and on the record. Making it difficult for residents to follow along is playing loose with the public trust.

That is why we report what we do. That is why we ask the uncomfortable questions. Without information, the public is left in the dark.

The better choice, the democratic choice, is to let the sun shine in.

# Alvirne Announces First Class for Hall of Fame



In celebration of Alvirne High School's 75th anniversary, the school has created a Hall of Fame to recognize distinguished alumni, dedicated staff members, and community supporters.

The ten-person Induction Committee received 52 strong nominations with all nominations are good for five years.

Residents interested in submitting a nomination, can visit <https://www.sau81.org/ahs/hall-of-fame> and select the nomination document on the left side of the

page for the category they fall under. The following ten most deserving recipients will be inducted as members of the inaugural class:

**Community Supporters**  
Hills Family Members:  
Dr. Alfred Hills, Virginia (Creutzborg) Hills, Mary (Field) Creutzborg, Jesse (Norwell) Hills, and Arthur Stedman Hills

**Alvirne School Trustees**  
Dedicated Staff: Barbara Hamilton; Margaret (Peggy) Lavoie; and Joan Mountford

**Distinguished Alumni**

David Alukonis, Class of 1979; Paul Bellerive, Class of 1967; Ryan Phaneuf, Class of 2007; Talesha Saint-Marc, Class of 2002; and Katherine (Katie) Thyne, Class of 2013.

The Induction Ceremony is currently scheduled to be held on Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2026, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the Alvirne High School gymnasium.

Questions can be directed to Principal Steven Beals. Email to [sbeals@sau81.org](mailto:sbeals@sau81.org) or call 603-886-1260 ext: 75000.

## Town Hall

Continued from page 1

unless we're going to put a warrant article up for \$15 million next year for a new town hall somewhere," he said.

"We understand that the Town Hall Project is a five to eight year project," added Vurgaropulos. "It's going to take time whether we get

land, use our own land, or any of those options. We're trying not to rush to any one direction and lock ourselves in. What can we accomplish right now to make what we have better without going toward astronomical costs before we have to?"

Cole argued that even the short term ADA improvements were moving

too slowly.

"We've been dragging our feet for years and years and years, and all I hear is that we're going to drag our feet some more," he said. "I would suggest the town put somebody in charge, give them a mission, give them a timeframe, give them the resources and the assets to get the job done!"

## School & Town Election Results

The Hudson Times will post the Town and School Election results on our Facebook page on Wednesday, March 11, once they are released. Due to the newspaper's print schedule it is impossible for us to publish the results in this week's paper. Any other questions, please contact us at 537-2760 or e-mail to [hudsontimes@nutpub.net](mailto:hudsontimes@nutpub.net).

The Hudson Times welcomes letters of up to 500 words on topics of local interest, and prints as many letters as possible. Please e-mail your letters to the Hudson Times at [hudsontimes@nutpub.net](mailto:hudsontimes@nutpub.net). All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number for verification if needed; name and town of residence will be printed. The Hudson Times reserves the right to reject or edit letters for content, length, and frequency. Anonymous letters will not be printed.

# THE Hudson Times

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# Selectmen Recognize Outgoing Member Dave Morin

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Board of Selectmen took time at its most recent meeting to honor Selectman Dave Morin, who attended his final meeting after choosing not to seek another term. Morin, who has served three consecutive terms, reflected on his time on the Board and the people he worked alongside.

“I want to thank the Board,” Morin said during his remarks. “We’ve had our ups and downs. We work well together.”

Morin noted that the most recent Boards he served on were “very understanding with employees” and consis-

tently looked out for the town’s best interests.

“We have a tough job and we do a pretty good job at it,” he said. “I do have to say, experiencing things in the past, I want to thank all you guys.”

Morin also expressed gratitude to Hudson residents for allowing him to serve for so many years.

“It’s very much appreciated,” he said. “I learned a lot more than I thought I knew when I started, which was a good thing. And most of all, I want to thank the employees. The employees... I’ve said it a hundred times to them, but I want to say it publicly tonight. The employees are the ones that make this

town as it is. We have a job, but they do the job every single day, and they’re the ones that make Hudson great.”

Selectman Heidi Jakoby spoke next, offering heartfelt thanks for Morin’s mentorship and steady leadership.

“I just want to thank Selectman Morin for working so diligently over the years for the town and for educating me in many ways,” she said. “I really wouldn’t be the Selectman I am without a lot of the conversations we’ve had and the things we’ve had to deal with together. I really do appreciate that... your knowledge and everything you have for

this town.”

Board Chair Dillon Dumont echoed those sentiments, recalling his early interactions with Morin before joining the Select Board.

“I did want to echo again thank you very much to Selectman Morin for his years of service,” Dumont said. “I had the pleasure of dealing with you on the Planning Board prior to being on the Select Board. You’ve always helped me anytime I’ve ever had a question. So, thank you very much for your time. I really appreciate it.”

Town Administrator Roy Sorenson also offered remarks, noting that Morin played a direct role in

bringing him to Hudson.

“You’re one of the original five that gave me this opportunity to sit here,” Sorenson said. “And I appreciate that. I’ll never forget that.”

Sorenson also highlighted Morin’s long history of service to the town, both as an employee and as an elected official.

“I think what you’ve done, both as an employee and serving as an elected official, speaks volumes to who you are as a person,” he said. “Not many people want to do one or the other, and you did both.”

Morin previously worked in the Hudson Fire Department before transitioning into elected serv-

ice, giving him a unique perspective on municipal operations and the challenges faced by town staff.

Morin’s departure marks the end of a long chapter of public service in Hudson. Throughout the meeting, Board members emphasized his reliability, institutional knowledge, and willingness to help others - qualities that shaped his reputation both inside Town Hall and in the community.

As the meeting concluded, Morin received a round of thanks from colleagues and staff, closing out his final session with the same humility and appreciation that characterized his remarks.

# Friends of Benson Park Plans for CleanUp Days, Centennial Documentary

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Benson Park Advisory Committee met on Feb. 19 to plan for the 2026 Volunteer Cleanup Days, which are expected to resume as warmer spring weather arrives.

“We have an update for Cleanup Days,” said Friends of Benson Park Board Chair Natalie Newell. “Our Secretary Nicole has created a landing page on our website under ‘Events.’ For the Cleanup Days, you can register for whichever day you’d like to volunteer this summer. They start in April and will happen on the third

Saturday of each month. You’ll be able to register online, and we’ll be promoting a QR code for registration on that page.”

Under the current schedule, the first Volunteer Cleanup Day will take place on Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“If anybody is interested in donating a lunch to the park for the volunteers during those cleanups, that would be awesome,” added acting Committee Chair Nate Muir.

Many park events this year will highlight the centennial of the 1926 opening of the historic Benson’s

Wild Animal Farm, reflecting the Friends’ longstanding mission to preserve the Farm’s history.

“One other big thing is that the Friends of Benson Park is working with Hudson Community Television this year, we’re doing a documentary,” Newell said. “It will be the history and 100year celebration of the property at Benson Park from 1926 right up to today, the beautiful town park that it is. There will be interviews, and we’re asking for people who might have worked at Benson Park or Benson’s Wild Animal Farm. If you want to

tell your story, we want to hear it, and it will be part of our documentary.”

She encouraged anyone with a story to contact HCTV Production Coordinator Matt Guerrero, who is working with the Friends to design and write the documentary. Residents may also reach out directly at natalie.newell@friendsofbensonpark.org. The goal is to complete the documentary by early fall 2026.

Selectman Liaison Heidi Jakoby attended the meeting with updates on “urgent” repairs to the park’s

historic office building. The Board of Selectmen and the Department of Public Works (DPW) previously agreed to assist with the ongoing restoration effort.

“Any repairs and requests have gone to DPW,” Jakoby explained. “Roof repairs and the painting of the historical buildings are the responsibility of our DPW. We report it to them, and it’s on their docket.”

Town officials have been in regular contact with the NH Historical Society for guidance on the repair work.

“It is the responsibility

of the town and the taxpayers to keep all of the historical buildings in the park updated, safe, and secure,” Jakoby said. “We need to make sure damage doesn’t happen to them, that is a major cost. To that effort, we want to make sure the town itself can make donations toward that end, in kind or in other ways.”

She encouraged the Advisory Committee to explore more reliable revenue sources to help maintain Benson Park’s historic structures.



**MARGE BADOIS** KELLERWILLIAMS.  
METROPOLITAN

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# Career Exploration Policy Advanced by School Board

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board held a first reading of its proposed revised Career Exploration, Readiness, Pathways and Credentialing policy at its most recent meeting, beginning what is expected to be a multi-step review of how the district prepares students for life after graduation. The updated policy outlines a comprehensive, grade-by-grade approach to career awareness and readiness, reflecting statewide expectations and growing emphasis on workforce development.

The policy opens by emphasizing the importance of introducing students to career concepts in developmentally appropriate ways.

“The Hudson School Board recognizes the im-

portance of guiding students toward career readiness through exploration that aligns with their cognitive, social, and emotional development,” the draft states. The goal is to foster “engagement, curiosity, and informed decision making” throughout a student’s educational journey.

The policy breaks down expectations by grade level: Elementary School (Grades K–5)

Career awareness would be introduced through:

- School Counseling Curriculum
- Storytelling and Interactive Activities
- Community Engagement
- Classroom Discussions, Guest Speakers, and Hands-on Experiences

The focus at this age is on universal foundational skills such as teamwork, problem solving, and creativity.

Middle School (Grades 6–8)

Students would begin connecting academic interests to real world applications through:

- Class Assignments and Individual Projects
- Career Fairs and Job-Shadowing Opportunities
- Project Based Learning
- Self-assessment Activities to Identify Strengths and Interests

The policy also emphasizes building self-regulation and organizational skills that will support later career planning.

High School (Grades 9–12)

Career engagement be-

comes more applied and individualized. Students would have access to:

- Career Focused Electives
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs
- Dual and Concurrent Enrollment
- Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs)

School counselors would hold personalized meetings to help students set goals for post secondary education, training, workforce entry, or entrepreneurship. The policy also encourages collaboration with local businesses, higher education institutions, and industry professionals to provide networking and hands-on experiences.

A major component of the revised policy is the dis-

trict’s commitment to assessing career interests for all incoming freshmen and advising them on how to earn a career readiness credential by graduation.

“The district will document school pathways to career readiness credentials, and also record on a student’s transcript progress towards the credential,” the policy states. Credentials must be based on statewide, CTE, or nationally normed metrics.

The district would also be required to report annually to the NH Department of Education on:

- CTE Program Completions
- Dual and Concurrent Enrollments
- Extended Learning and Work-based Learning Participation

• The Number of Career Ready Credentials Awarded

Examples of credentials students may pursue include OSHA 10, ServSafe, Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA), and Dental Assistant certifications.

The Superintendent, along with the Director of School Counseling, Career Development Coordinator, Principal, and CTE Director, would be responsible for developing guidelines to support the policy. These guidelines would outline criteria for fostering career exploration, pathway planning, and career maturity at each grade level.

The policy stresses that credentialing opportunities should be accessible to students who wish to pursue them.

# Conservation Commission Plans for Trail Work on Trolley Bed

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Conservation Commission met on Feb. 9 to discuss updates on several ongoing projects, including work on the Hudson side of the Trolley Bed Trail, planned in coordination with the Pelham Conservation Commission. Bad weather has delayed past attempts to conduct a for-

mal walk-through of the area. Despite the setback, Commissioner John Walter was able to complete an informal inspection to assess what the trail work would require.

“I made it out there and there’s probably about 10 trees or tree limbs that are down across the trail that need to be cut or removed,” said Walter. “That section

looks like it could certainly use half a day of work just to cut through so it could be walkable.”

He confirmed that Pelham has already completed cleanup on its end of the old trolley bed.

“They’ve cleaned it all up and it looks fine,” Walter added.

Commissioners agreed the project should move

forward once weather improves, especially given Pelham’s progress. Snow on the ground made scheduling a formal Trail Work Day difficult, but tentative plans were set for March 7 at 10:30 a.m.

The Trolley Bed Trail was not the only joint effort with Pelham. Plans also continued for a connector trail between Musquash and Gumpas Pond.

The Commission also reviewed its financial status, which remains stable early in 2026. The last major expense occurred at the end of December.

“There was an expenditure of around \$1,700 for professional services, \$1,732. What was that for?” asked Vice Chair Ken Dickinson.

According to Hudson Civil Engineer Don Kirkland, the cost was related to permit work needed to improve Robinson Pond. The contractor recently submitted a bid to extend its agreement with the town.

“They just submitted an addendum, which we are negotiating,” said Kirkland. “It’s an ongoing thing with this MS4 permit. Each year it gets more and more complex. We have deadlines that we need to meet by 2027, 2031, 2033, and there’s a lot of calculations that go into us meeting the requirements, especially with our phosphorus goal at Robinson Pond.”

He noted that his March schedule was “filled” with MS4 work.

“Do we know if these

are boat launch improvements? Or are these improvements to the pond itself?” asked Secretary Chris Cameron.

Kirkland explained that the work is aimed at reducing phosphorus, ammonia, and other runoff entering Robinson Pond, an effort the Commission hopes will reduce the increasingly common cyanobacteria blooms.

Commissioners agreed to monitor the cost of any contract additions, and Kirkland said he would provide an update once negotiations conclude.

“It’d be good to know what the totality of that has been,” said Dickinson. “We didn’t expect some of the ongoing expenses year after year being taken out of the professional line item.”



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# First 2026 Budget Report Shows Increase in Several Departments

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Budget Committee met on March 4 to hear a presentation from Town Administrator Roy Sorenson on the town's revenue and expenditures.

"The report itself is through Feb. 25, 2026," Sorenson explained, noting that this represented roughly 65% of projected expenditures for the 2025-2026 budget. "The general fund is at 73%, the sewer fund at 65%, and the water fund is at 90%. That's all inclu-

sive."

He added that some of the higher percentages were due to encumbrances or spending commitments. Several departments were also running over budget because of "retirement payouts, vacancies, operational seasonal needs, and items that are scheduled to be reimbursed through reserve funds." Recent snowstorms contributed to higher than expected costs for the Department of Public Works.

The Finance Department has struggled to keep

revenue reporting current due to staff turnover.

"We've had a change in staff again," said Sorenson. "We had another two month gap where we lost an accountant and brought a new accountant on board. We're still shuffling with folks and playing catchup. The idea is that by the time I come back here, whether it's next month or right before the end of the fiscal year, we'll be caught up on the revenues."

The incomplete revenue numbers showed totals

slightly below projections, with a small decline in motor vehicle registration fees and an increase in general fund interest revenue following changes in how the town manages its funds.

"Historically, the March/April time frame for motor vehicle revenue, those are probably two of the strongest months," said Committee member Kevin Walsh. "I think we'll be able to make it up."

Some members raised questions about how salary

related spending was being presented.

"Is it possible on the salary slide to, in the future, break out in the columns the amount of overtime versus normal salaries?" asked Committee member Bob Wherry.

Sorenson agreed to make the information clearer going forward.

"The visual presentation is very effective for us to take a look," said Walsh. "It's easy to get lost in the numbers."

Committee member Shawn Jasper noted discrepancies in police administration expenses between two different reports.

"Looking at the two different reports, one's more detailed than the other, I'm confused why the numbers don't match," he said.

Sorenson explained that the differences reflected timing between when the reports were processed, as well as the recent retirement of Hudson's police chief.

## Zoning

Continued from page 1

large volume" of correspondence for a single case. Several residents also attended the meeting to voice their support directly.

"It'd be really nice to see something in the area. I live next to a dilapidated building that used to be a Burger King," said resident Adam Garside. "There's not a whole lot going on."

While many viewed the development as a potential "revitalization" of the corridor, others raised concerns. Letters and public comments cited issues such as building height, wetland disturbance, traffic, and the potential impact on nearby Benson Park.

"What I have not heard at all, and I have not read, is the impact on what one person has referred to as the jewel of our town: Benson Park," said resident Deb Putnam. "The addition of buildings virtually adjacent

to Benson Park, up to 50 feet in height, would affect the environment in Benson Park, the wildlife, the light infiltration, and the enjoyment of the park by residents, not only in Hudson, but in surrounding towns."

She urged the town to consider the "bigger picture," while resident Ed Thompson warned against making exceptions to the town's height requirements.

Several residents sought more information without taking a firm position. At least four letters opposing the project were also submitted.

"This will be available as part of the case record, online and in Town Hall," Witham-Gradert said, referring to the letters he did not have time to read aloud.

For the Board, much of the debate centered on whether the changes to the previously approved plan were necessary.

"The truth of the matter is whether or not we are comfortable with them

splitting that larger building," said Board member Tristan Dion. "The main crux of it is taking that main building, splitting it into two, and doing some shuffling of units across the property."

Board members also questioned whether additional restrictions should be placed on the property and whether the full 50 foot height was needed.

After determining that the proposed use would not conflict with the public interest, the Zoning Board voted to grant the mixed-use variance, with conditions including a cap on units in one building and a limit of "no more than three livable floors" across the development. Existing variances dating back to 2024 were also extended.

The next meeting of the Zoning Board of Adjustment is set for Thursday, March 26, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Room at Town Hall.

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# Library Programming Will Include 250th Anniversary

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Rodgers Memorial Library Board of Trustees met on Feb. 18 to discuss upcoming programming and regional activities as spring approaches.

“The NHLTA Conference is coming up on May 27 in Manchester this year, and that’s always a great day for the Trustees to get together and learn from each other,” said Library Director Linda Pilla, referring to the NH Library Trustees Association. “You can participate in different views on how the library is run.”

Several current, and even outgoing, Trustees expressed interest in attending.

“Programming is fantastic. We’re going to have a couple of NH Humanities programs later in the year. This is the year we’re celebrating the 250th signing of the Declaration of Independ-

dence, so we’re looking for some thematic teachings and things that come along the way,” said Pilla. “There are Redcoats and Rebels with a NH twist, that’s coming up later in spring. The kickoff party for our Summer Reading Program will be combined with a birthday party for the library and a 250th birthday. There will be free cakes, different crafts, live music, and probably a cupcake competition. We haven’t done that for a few years.”

She encouraged patrons to volunteer for events, noting that the cupcake competition judge is always a popular role. The Redcoats and Rebels program is tentatively scheduled for April 8.

“National Library Week is also coming up,” added Vice-Chair Lisa Weber, who said the Friends of the Library are planning their own activities. “They’re

looking to do a bunch of things for that, get some gift cards, flowers, and thank you notes.”

National Library Week 2026 will run from April 19 through April 25.

Reviewing the Library Director’s monthly report, Trustee Chair Karen Bohrer asked about unusual Inter-library Loan statistics from late 2025 and early 2026.

“I was curious if you can opine as to why the Inter-library Loan requests were filled at such a low rate,” she said. “In December, only 55% of requests were filled, and in January only 62%. The rate was kind of low.”

According to Pilla, the change reflects a shift in how Rodgers Memorial processes loan requests.

“I wanted us to be successful. Every time we received a request, I wanted us to be the one filling it,

and I felt like if we weren’t the ones filling that request, we were somehow failing,” she explained. “It was indicated to me that the actual way you should measure it is the speed in which a request gets filled. If a request comes into Rodgers and the book is not on the

shelf, the best thing to do is mark that we were not able to fill it on that date and send it on to the next library.”

She added that the new strategy focuses on speed rather than fulfilling a specific request, and that monthly numbers can fluctuate depending on timing.

“I request all the time,” said Treasurer Margaret St. Onge, who praised the emphasis on speed. “I try to request online, and some of the books I want are so popular that I’m number 77, so it’s never going to be filled quickly.”

## LMP Maple’s Sweet Success



Local Maple Syrup maker, Phil Perron, tests a batch of freshly boiled maple sap on Sunday morning at his small Sugar Shack on Jump Lane in Hudson. LMP Maple is currently in full production mode as he prepares for New Hampshire Maple Weekend on March 21-22. Many local maple syrup producers will open their doors for guests during those two days.

Photo by Chris Paul

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# HUDSON SPORTS

## Top-Seeded Admirals Stunned by Bearcats in Playoff Upset

CHRIS PAUL  
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne-Milford High School hockey team's exceptional season came to a sudden and disappointing end last weekend, as the Admirals fell 6-1 to the Somersworth-Coe-Brown (SCB) Bearcats in the Division II quarterfinals.

The playoff match-up took place on the Admi-

ral's home ice at the Skate 3 Arena in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts. Despite entering the tournament as the historic number-one seed - a first for the program - fans quickly realized the favorites were struggling to find their rhythm against the #8-seeded Bearcats.

The Admirals faced a significant disadvantage

before the puck even dropped. The team's top scorer, Alvirne senior Brandon Ganas, was sidelined due to a one-game suspension. Ganas had been ejected for a boarding penalty during the final regular-season game against the Nashua Knights.

Without their first-line center, the Admirals' offense lacked its usual spark. The Bearcats took full advantage of the gap in the lineup, disrupting Alvirne-Milford's puck control and dictating the tempo from the opening face-off.

### Scoring Breakdown: SCB Dominance

The Bearcats jumped to a commanding lead in the first period, scoring three times to silence the home crowd:

12:36: Miles Messier opened the scoring.

10:21: Hunter Rohl doubled the lead on just the third shot of the game for SCB.

Late 1st: SCB capitalized on a "too many men on the ice" penalty against Alvirne junior Nathan Ricci, taking a 3-0 lead into the intermission.



Freshman Luke Green gets tripped heading for the Bearcats goal in the first period of the Division II playoff game. Photos by Chris Paul



Milford senior defenseman Mason Tomkins had the Admirals only goal in their final game.

### A Brief Glimmer of Hope

The Admirals showed signs of life in the second period, cutting the deficit to 3-1.

Milford senior defenseman Mason Tomkins found the back of the net halfway through the frame, assisted by senior forward Chris Bozza during a scramble in front of the crease.

For a moment, the momentum seemed to shift. The Admirals evened **continued on page 11**

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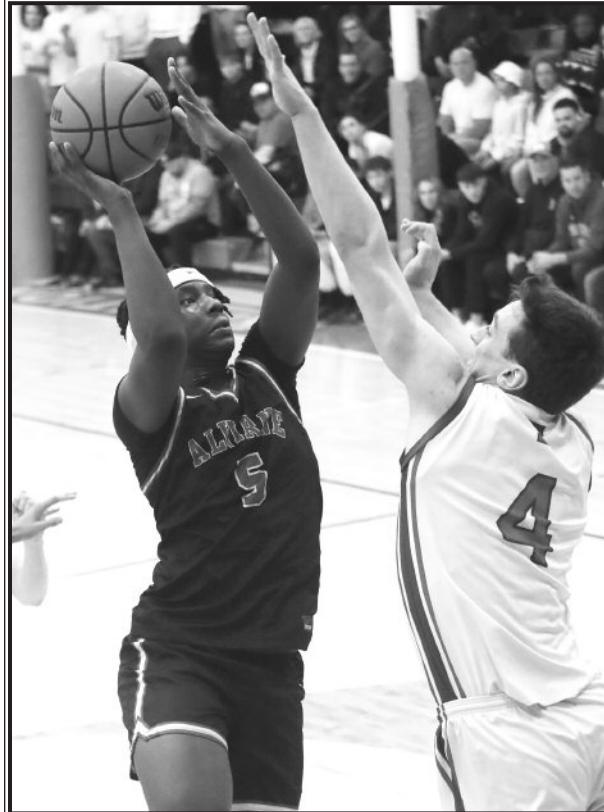
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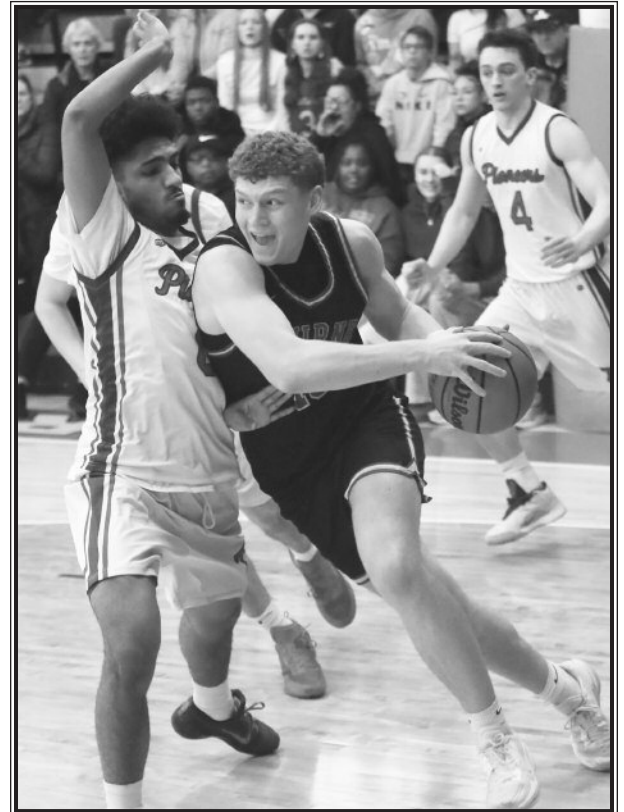
# Broncos Edged Out of Trip to Semis by Trinity in Overtime



Sophomore guard Camden St. Clair had a good game, putting up 13-points, including three triples.



Junior forward Angel Kangar had 14-points against Trinity on Saturday. *Photos by Chris Paul*



Senior Garrett Hall led the team in scoring with 18-points and was the only Bronco to score in OT.

**CHRIS PAUL**  
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne High School Boys Basketball team was closer than they've been for decades in reaching the semifinals of the NHIAA Division I Championships, falling 60-62 in overtime to the Trinity Pioneers.

In the game, on Saturday afternoon, March 7, at Trinity High School, the Broncos, who came into

the contest as the number-six seed played an exceptional first half to the number-three seeded Pioneers.

Alvirne was able to keep pace with their opponents displaying strong defense and hitting four shots from outside the arc and led 14-13 after the first quarter.

In the second period, Hudson fans were able to cheer on their team as they witnessed them hold the home squad to nine-points,

while scoring 16 of their own and opened up a 30-22 halftime lead.

After the break, Trinity was able to shake off the deficit they had fallen into and worked back to get within two-points after an 18-24 third quarter.

The fourth-quarter is where the Broncos fell into their slump, shots weren't going in and they were beaten on rebounds at both sides of the court.

Thankfully, Trinity

wasn't doing much better on offense. After a 5-7 fourth-quarter, the Quarter-final match-up went into overtime tied at 55-points each.

In the extended period, senior center Garrett Hall was the only Bronco to score, going five-for-six at the foul line and his team fell by two-points, ending their first season under the leadership of head coach Sam Bonney-Liles.

Hall led the team in

scoring with 18-points.

Junior forward Angel Kangar had 14-points and was a strong force driving to the basket.

Sophomore guard Camden St. Clair had a big game, putting up 13-points, including three triples, in the close game.

Senior guard Luke Norse finished with eight-points with two, three-pointers and a basket.

Leading up to that exciting game, in the first-

round game against the Keene Blackbirds, the Broncos had outstanding first and final quarters to come away with a 55-43 victory.

The Broncos came out of the gate strong, outscoring the Blackbird 16-6, but then faltered in the second to see their lead drop to just one-point at halftime.

As it turned out, the Broncos needed to come from behind for the victory **continued on page 11**

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## Have an Announcement?

This service is provided free of charge to Hudson residents who wish to announce the birth of their child or grandchild, marriage engagement, wedding or milestone event such as a Silver Wedding Anniversary. This is a great way to share your news with your local community. The Hudson Times also accepts obituary notices. Please contact us at 537-2760 or e-mail to [hudsontimes@nutpub.net](mailto:hudsontimes@nutpub.net).

# Hudson Fish & Game Club's Junior Olympic Qualifiers

**SUBMITTED BY  
BILL DUTTON,  
DIRECTOR HFGJRT**

The past few months have seen major milestone accomplishments by the Hudson Fish and Game Club's Junior Rifle Team (HFGJRT). Mid-February the Junior Olympic Qualifier matches for Precision Air Rifle and 3 Position Smallbore Rifle were held in MA and NH. HFGJRT Team members, Team Captain Quinn Fauvel of Hudson and Jack Daniels of Dracut Mass., earned automatic invitations to the National Junior Olympics and Anniston/Talladega Alabama for their high score/first-place finishes in the Men's categories Smallbore and Air Rifle respectively.

Jack represented the

HFGJRT at the Reading Rifle and Revolver Club in MA who hosted the MA Junior Rifle Olympic qualifier matches. Quinn represented the HFGJRT at his home range in Hudson NH. Both bested their peers in the Men's precision smallbore and air rifle matches. Notable was Jack's smallbore performance. His score of 581 was the highest of all other Under 18 shooters nationally and good for 10th overall. Jack accomplished this feat with a relatively basic Anschutz 1903 match rifle and over the counter jacket and pants. Most of the other top shooters in the top 20 shoot for college teams and have custom made pants and jackets and expensive high-end rifles

and ammo.

On the Women's side, the top New Hampshire Air and 3P Smallbore shooter was Shaylin Cullis of Sullivan NH.

We congratulate them both and look forward to seeing them compete in the National Junior Olympics at Anniston/ Talladega Alabama in April.

Other New Hampshire competitors included Women's Silver medalist Alivia Sullivan of Keen with Air and Smallbore scores of 563 and 554 respectively. Men's Silver medalist Joe Dehney of Pelham with Air and Smallbore scores of 533 and 515 and Bronze medalist Hunter MacAloney of Hudson with Air and Smallbore scores of 478 and 444.



Quinn Fauvel of Hudson, left, and Jack Daniels of Dracut Mass., at right, are congratulated by Hudson Fish and Game Club's Junior Rifle Team Director Bill Dutton.

**Top Scores:**  
 Jack Daniels Smallbore: 582, Air Rifle: 565  
 Quinn Fauvel Smallbore: 556, Air Rifle: 562  
 Shaylin Cullis Smallbore: 560, Air Rifle: 569  
 If you are interested in learning more about the HFGJRT program you can inquire at [www.hudsonfishandgame.com](http://www.hudsonfishandgame.com).

## Hockey

continued from page 9

the shot totals and began to control the puck. However, that optimism was extinguished when the Bearcats tallied a late goal to end the period 4-1.

### The Final Tally

The third period was more of the same, as the Bearcats added two more goals while the Admirals

were whistled for three late penalties. Despite outshooting SCB 25-21 overall, Alvirne-Milford couldn't overcome the efficiency of the Bearcats' counter-attack, resulting in the 6-1 final.

First-year head coach Kathy Griswold was candid about the team's performance but remained focused on the future of the program.

"We picked the worst

day to have the worst game of our season, and they had a great game," Griswold said after the tough loss. "I came in to build a program, so this is just a bump in the road."

Griswold viewed the historic season – despite the unexpected ending – as the first major step in rebuilding the Admirals into a consistent Division II powerhouse.

## Basketball

continued from page 10

as they really let their opponents back into the game after a 9-11 third period.

The fourth had the home team burst back 19-6 for the eventual eight-point win and a celebration to be moving on in the play-offs.

Fans might remember, one year earlier, the Bron-

cos fell out of the playoffs early with a final-second buzzer-beater by Manchester Memorial in the first round at Alvirne.

In the win over Keene, Norse finished with 19-points, getting four from outside the arc, two for two-points and went three-for-four at the line.

Hall had 11-points in the first-round game; Kangar and sophomore guard

Alex Bettencourt both scored seven-points; senior forward Jacoby Durham had six-pints and St. Clair had a three-pointer and two foul shots.

The Broncos finished the year winning 13 games and losing just seven.

The team will be losing a significant portion of their line-up next year with six players graduating in the spring.

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# American Legion Post 48 Awards \$15,000 to Local Groups



On Monday night, March 2, during the American Legion Post 48 first meeting of the month, Post 48 Commander Dave Mayopoious awarded five thousand dollars each to the following: From left, Ashley Mitchell and Ezra accepted the check for The Liberty House; Tia

Middleton from the Manchester Diaper Pantry was presented a check; and Julie Weymouth accepted for Homeland Heroes. Mayopoious said, "It is an honor to be able to give to those community programs."

*Photos submitted by Laurie Dupont*

## Snowman Contest

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Submit photos by emailing to [HUDSONTIMES@nutpub.net](mailto:HUDSONTIMES@nutpub.net) by 3/15/26, email must include the builders name and age

Contestants must be a Hudson resident between the ages of 4 to 14

## Pappas Introduces Legislation to Suspend Country's Gas Tax

Congressman Chris Pappas is introducing the Gas Prices Relief Act of 2026, which would suspend the federal gas tax through Oct. 1, 2026 and provide Americans with relief from the increase in gas prices. According to AAA, the average price for a gallon of gasoline has increased, now averaging \$3.47 per gallon.

"As Granite Staters continue to grapple with high costs on groceries, housing, and health care thanks to this administration, the last thing they need is to pay even higher prices at the gas pump as a result of Donald Trump's war in Iran," said Congressman Pappas. "That is why I'm introducing legislation in the House to suspend the gas tax through Oct. 1, 2026, and provide Americans with badly-needed relief from the historic increase in gas prices we have seen in just the last few days. The legislation would also hold oil companies accountable if they refuse to pass these savings along to consumers. I am grateful to Senator Kelly for leading this critical effort in the Senate, and I remain committed to using every resource available to bring down costs and ensure that families and small businesses are not paying the price for this administration's reckless actions."

The Gas Prices Relief Act of 2026 suspends the 18.4 cents per gallon gasoline tax, safeguards and maintains funding for roads and bridges; and gas spill remediation; and holds oil and gas producers accountable if they fail to pass along the benefits of this tax reduction to consumers.

In 2022, Pappas co-sponsored the Gas Prices Relief Act to suspend the gas tax and led the fight to hold corporations accountable for price gouging and driving up costs. In January, he introduced a package of legislation to lower energy costs for Granite Staters.

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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).

## Diamond Jubilee

Take a stroll down memory lane and celebrate Alvirne's 75th as the Alvirne High School's Music department presents Diamond Jubilee on March 21 at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., and March 22 at 1 p.m. Get tickets at [alvirnemu-sic.ludus.com/index.php](http://alvirnemu-sic.ludus.com/index.php)

## Blood Drive

The Rotary Club of Londonderry, in partnership with the Red Cross, will be hosting a Blood Drive in March. It will be held on Wednesday, March 18, at Orchard Christian Fellowship, in the Sanctuary, 136 Pillsbury Rd., Londonderry. The Blood Drive will run from noon - 5 p.m. Please call 1-800 - Red Cross (1-800-733-2767) or visit

"RedCrossBlood.org" and enter "Londonderry Rotary" to schedule and appointment for your blood donation. There continues to be a critical need for blood, so please consider making an appointment to donate.

## Electronics Recycling

Come to the Alvirne High School Parking Lot on Saturday May 16, from 8 a.m. - noon and drop off unused or broken electronics. Open to residents of NH, MA, or ME. Items vary in price. Cash, Venmo, or checks payable to: "HUDSON-LITCHFIELD Rotary Club" Proceeds support: College and Vocational Scholarships; Local Service Needs; Housing, and Food Pantry Agencies; as well as Other Community Service

Projects. For more information 603-882-5289, visit the groups Facebook page or website <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/2931>.

## Meat Raffle

Come out Friday, March 20 for a Meat Raffle at VFW Memorial Post 5791, located at 15 Bockes Rd., Hudson. All proceeds will support Alvirne athletes and athletic programs through the Alvirne Bronco Boosters Club. Bring your friends and family, try your luck at Bingo, and compete for great cuts of meat, raffle baskets, and a 50/50 prize. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., Meat raffle begins at 7 p.m.

## Dungeons & Donuts

Come play Dungeons & Dragons and grab a donut at

the Rodgers Library on Saturday, March 21 at 9:30 a.m. All skill levels are welcome.

## Chili and Chowder Cook-off

Bring Your Appetite to St. Peter's 9th Annual Chili and Chowder Cook-off, on Saturday, March 21, from 4:30 - 6 p.m., at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Mammoth Road at 3 Peabody Row, Londonderry. Attendees are invited for a \$15 donation (\$7 for children 10 and under). Proceeds will support the Liberty House, a program of Catholic Charities, in Manchester and St. Peter's various missions. Prepare to taste a variety of delights and bring your best chili or chowder if you wish to enter, while kids are encouraged to participate in the Kids' Dessert Competition. Cast your ballot for the winners and then check out the many popular raffles. There is an entry fee of \$10 for chefs, while kids may enter the dessert competition for free. Cooks can register by emailing [church@stpeterslondonderry.org](mailto:church@stpeterslondonderry.org) or calling 781-801-8161. Late entries will be accepted in person on the 21st at 4:15 p.m. For more

information, please visit <https://stpeterslondonderry.org>.

## Curious Kids: Ocean

On Friday, March 13 and Saturday, March 14 at 10 a.m., explore learning centers with your preschooler at the Rodgers Library.

## Genealogy Club

This Rodgers Library club will meet on Friday, March 13 at 1:30 p.m. This month's lecture will be "A Quick and Dirty Guide to Reading Old Handwriting & Script" by Kelley Barrett.

## Blood Pressure Screening

On Saturday, March 14 at 10 a.m., Medical professionals from American Family Care in Hudson will be at Rodgers Library to provide free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings.

## Afternoon Book Group

This Rodgers Library group will meet on Tuesday, March 17 at 1:30 p.m. This month's book pick is "Where the Forest Meets the Stars" by

Glendy Vanderah.

## Friends of the Library

the Friends of the Library will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 17 at 6 p.m.

## Crime & Cookies

The Monthly meeting of the Rodgers Library true crime podcast club will be held on Wednesday, March 18 at 7 p.m.

## Painted Pasta Craft

Come to the Rodgers Library on Saturday, March 21 at 10 a.m., to create art with pasta and paint. Decorate eggs and other shapes.

## Tween Escape Room: Pirates

On Tuesday, March 24 at 5:30 p.m., Tweens in grades 4-8 are invited to solve a pirate themed scavenger hunt/escape room at the Rodgers Library.

## Elementary Sheep Art

On Thursday, March 26

continued on page 14

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## Around Town

Continued from page 13

at 5:30 p.m., Grades 1-5 are invited to make a sheep with paper doilies and black paper at the Rodgers Library.

### CollabLab Science Storytime: Rock & Roll

Join Miss Tanya at Rodgers Library for a science storytime about Rock & Roll on Wednesday, March 18 at 4:30 p.m. This event is for Ages 5-9.

### Mah Jongg Tournament

On Sunday, April 26, from 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., join the Etz Hayim Synagogue for a fun-filled day of tiles, prizes and friendship! Entry fee is \$30. There will be 4 rounds of game play, 4 games per 1-hour round. There will be prizes for placement, a 50/50 raffle and additional raffles, and sandwiches, desserts and refreshments. Sign up by April 12. Doors open and check-in from 9:30 - 10 a.m. Pre-register and pay at [www.etzhayim.org/mah-jongg-tournament](http://www.etzhayim.org/mah-jongg-tournament). Rules and scoring provided after payment receipt. Questions? Contact Jean Lisien at [jbortz@comcast.net](mailto:jbortz@comcast.net) or Deb Eisner at [rlc800@aol.com](mailto:rlc800@aol.com).

### Veterans Assistance

American Legion Post 27, 6 Sargent Rd., Londonderry, will host representatives from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs on Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. noon, to provide direct assistance to veterans in the community. During the event, VA representatives will be available to: Sign veterans up for VA benefits and services; Help resolve existing VA-related issues; Answer questions about eligibility, healthcare, and benefits; and Provide guidance on navigating the VA system. This event is open to all veterans, not just members of the American Legion. Veterans who need to sign up with the VA are asked to bring a copy of their DD-214. Veterans, family members, and caregivers are encouraged to attend and take advantage of this opportunity for one-on-one support. For

more information, veterans may contact American Legion Post 27 directly via [mail@alpost27.com](mailto:mail@alpost27.com) or stop by during the event.

### 2026 Hudson Lions Club Scholarships

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

### Inhouse Secondhand Prose Book Sale

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

### Legion Meat Raffle

American Legion Hudson Post 48's Meat Raffle will be held at Post 48, located at 37 Central St. On the following dates: Saturday, March 21, beginning at 2 p.m.; Saturday, April 18, beginning at 2 p.m. This event is open to the public. You must be 16+ to play. The proceeds from this event are to benefit the Alvirne HS CTE Honor Society. Pre-buys are available in the Foxhole. For more information please call 603-889-9777.

### Legion Karaoke

American Legion Hud-

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

### Explorers Storytime

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

### Adventurers Storytime

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

### Teen Hangout

Middle and high school students ages 13+ are invited to enjoy the Rodgers Library's teen space after school, most Weekdays at 2:30 p.m. Snacks, charging stations, video games, and crafts provided. Connect the Library with any questions.

### BINGO!

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

### A Good Yarn

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

### Buy-a-Brick and Show Gratitude

Preserve a memory and help the Friends of the Library support programs, events, museum and entertainment venue passes, and scholarships. FOL will engrave your purchased bricks with two lines (\$55) or three lines (\$80) with your special

message. The order form is on Rodgers Memorial Library website click on the Friends page. The bricks are placed in the RML Walkway twice a year and will become an enduring legacy. For an inanimate object, each brick can speak volumes.

### Drop In Stitchers

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

### Baby Lapsit and Playtime

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

### Movers & Shakers

Come to Rodgers Memorial Library on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., for a Toddler storytime for kids that don't sit still for long. Movement, songs, bubbles, and stories for ages 1-3.

### Laptop Donation Program

United Way of Greater Nashua is reintroducing their Tech Connect United Laptop Donation Program. Donate your working laptops, tablets, and smartphones, and they will in turn refurbish them for use by low-income individuals and families. The client recipients are low-income, and living in our Greater Nashua area. Devices can be dropped off at the United Way office located at 20 Broad St., Nashua between 9:30 a.m.

and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays or by appointment email [info@unitedwaynashua.org](mailto:info@unitedwaynashua.org) if you have any questions.

### Overeaters Anonymous

Is food a problem for you? Do you eat when you are not hungry? Is your weight affecting the way you live your life? Overeaters Anonymous, no dues, no fees, no weigh-ins no diets. Meetings are on Tuesday's from 9 - 10 a.m., at St. Elizabeth Seton Church 190 Meetinghouse Rd., Bedford, use the rear doors for access to the meeting room in the church basement. Contact Pat At 603-289-8476 Or Jane At 603-674-6540 With Any Questions (Not Affiliated With Any Private Or Public Organization)

## New Hampshire Outdoor Rec Industry Reaches Record High

According to the latest data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA), outdoor recreation contributed \$4.2 billion in value-add to the NH economy, accounting for 3.5% of NHGDP and more than 33,000 jobs in 2024.

This release last week shows that outdoor recreation in NH ranks 8th nationally for the state's GDP impacts and is critical to helping attract younger individuals to the state.

The OSRA report indicates that 2024 has seen the largest recorded increase in NH's outdoor recreation gross domestic product (GDP) at 3% compared to the previous year. Additionally, the industry has experienced steady growth in employment, with more than 1,300 new jobs created. The report also highlights increased participation in activities such as cycling, hunting, kayaking and canoeing, and snow sports. The highest economic contributors to the state's outdoor recreation sector are snow activities, RVing, and hunting, respectively.

"Outdoor recreation contributes significantly to

NH's economy through the impact it has across a number of industries beyond just recreation," said Department of Employment Security Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau Director Brian Gottlob. "Including manufacturing, retail trade, and lodging and dining, outdoor recreation contributes more than 33,000 private sector jobs."

Nationally, outdoor recreation generated \$696.7 billion in economic value in 2024, accounting for 2.4 percent of U.S. GDP, and supported more than 5.2 million jobs, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The study noted that NH is one of the top 10 states where winter recreation is a key economic driver. Skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling and other activities add \$250 million.

"Our outdoor recreation economy spans all four seasons and includes activities such as boating, fishing, hiking, camping, hunting, and biking," said BEA Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development Director Janel Lawton. "These activities support outfitters, manufacturers, hospitality

businesses, guides, and retailers across the state while attracting millions of visitors each year."

In 2025, Governor Kelly Ayotte identified the outdoor recreation industry as one of nine target industries to grow and diversify NH's economy and proclaimed June 10 as Outdoor Industry Day in NH. Since its inception in 2019, the Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development has facilitated public and private collaboration of businesses, employees, and communities that support year-round recreation across the Granite State.

The Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) is dedicated to enhancing the economic vitality of the State of NH while promoting it as a destination for domestic and international visitors. BEA oversees programs in economic development, international commerce, outdoor recreation industry development, planning and community development, travel and tourism, visitor services, and workforce development. For more information, visit [www.nheconomy.com](http://www.nheconomy.com).



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Saturday	9:00AM - 5:00PM
Sunday	10:00AM - 3:00PM

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