

# THE Hudson Times

March 19, 2026 ♦ Volume 4 – Issue 11

A FREE Weekly Publication



Khloe Ramirez and Steve Pollard dance the waltz during the annual Quinceañera Ball held Friday night, March 13 at AHS. Photo by Chris Paul

## Alvirne Celebrates Culture with Quinceañera Ball

CHRIS PAUL  
HUDSON TIMES

Students, families, and staff gathered at Alvirne High School on Friday evening, March 13, for a colorful and meaningful cultural celebration as the school hosted its annual Quinceañera Ball.

The event, sponsored by the school's Spanish Club and Spanish Honor Society, took place from 6 to

9:30 p.m., bringing together members of the community to celebrate a long-standing Latino tradition that marks a young woman's transition into adulthood.

The quinceañera, derived from the Spanish words quince (fifteen) and años (years), is a traditional celebration held for Latina girls as they turn 15. The event is both a family and

**continued on page 8**

## Hudson Voters Reject Multiple Petition Warrant Articles

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

Hudson voters rejected two citizen petition warrant articles at the polls last week, signaling strong support for maintaining the town's current structure for both the Planning Board and the default budget process. Both articles were defeated by wide margins.

One petition asked voters whether Hudson should change the method of selecting Planning Board members, shifting from elected positions to appointed ones. The proposal would have returned the Planning Board to a structure used in the past, with the Board of Selectmen responsible for appointing members under

RSA 673:2 and RSA 673:5. Current elected members would have been allowed to finish their terms before the change took effect.

The Board of Selectmen voted 3–2 not to recommend the article, and voters ultimately agreed. The measure failed decisively, with 2,151 residents voting against it and 552 voting in favor. The result reflects a clear preference among voters to keep Planning Board members directly accountable to the electorate rather than appointed by town officials.

A second petition warrant article asked whether Hudson should adopt RSA 40:14b, which would delegate responsibility for determining the town's default

budget to the Budget Committee instead of the Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen was split on the issue, with Selectmen Heidi Jakoby and Xen Vurgaropulos supporting the article and the remaining members opposed.

During earlier discussions, Board Chair Dillon Dumont expressed concerns about shifting that authority. "I think the Budget Committee, in controlling both of these articles, can possibly be a little self serving," he said, noting that the committee already plays a major role in shaping the town's financial decisions.

The Budget Committee itself opted not to make a **continued on page 4**

## Majority of School District Warrant Articles Pass

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

Hudson voters approved the majority of the Hudson School District's warrant articles last week, including most items with a monetary impact. Only one collective bargaining agreement failed, and all proposed capital projects were approved by wide margins.

The district's Operating Budget passed comfortably, 1,994 to 755. The \$72,166,427 budget carries an estimated tax rate impact of 79 cents. School officials had emphasized throughout the budget season that the proposal reflected rising costs in salaries, benefits, transportation, and special education services.

Voters also approved the

collective bargaining agreement between the Hudson School Board and the Paraprofessionals, Support Staff, and Related Personnel (PSRPs). The agreement passed 1,882 to 875. The contract is expected to have a tax rate impact of 7 cents in the first year and 6 cents in the second year.

Article 3, the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the School Board and AFSCME, was the only major article to fail. According to the tentative results, the vote was extremely close, with 1,364 in favor and 1,368 opposed, a difference of just four votes. The narrow margin means the union and the district will likely need to revisit negotiations before next

year's budget cycle.

Article 4, the collective bargaining agreement with the Teamsters, passed 1,679 to 1,059. The contract carries a modest tax impact: 1 cent in the first year and 2 cents in each of the following two years.

Voters also supported several capital improvement articles aimed at maintaining school facilities. Article 5, which funds the replacement of 52 windows at Hudson Memorial School, passed overwhelmingly, 2,106 to 639. The project carries an estimated tax rate impact of 3 cents.

Article 6, the replacement of the fire alarm panel at Alvirne High School, passed by the widest margin **continued on page 7**

# Only Three Warrant Articles Fail in Town Election

CHRIS PAUL  
HUDSON TIMES

Under 3,000 Hudson residents made their way to the polls last week, electing board members and passing all but three Warrant Articles.

In the March 10 election, held at Alvirne High School and Hudson Memorial, Kimberly Allen was uncontested for the one Selectman seat on the ballot. The three-year term seat was previously held by longtime Selectman Rob Morin and Allen won with 1,838 votes.

There were only two contested races on the town ballot, they were:

Cemetery Trustee, one, three-year term seat won by Mary Ellen Gannon over Charles Chapman 1,440-834. Library Trustee, two,

three-year term seats had Mary (Mimi) Guessferd and Susan T. Jones win with 1,437 and 1,332 respectively. Evan M. Maloney had 1,061 votes.

Other results were:

Moderator, one, two-year term position was won by Debra Stoddard - 2,069-13.

The Budget Committee had Donna Boucher, James Lawrence and Robert Everet winning

Three, three-year term seats.

Planning Board had Timothy Lyko and Jordan Ulery winning the two, three-year term seats. They were unopposed.

The Supervisor of Checklist position went to Garland Mann-Lamb with 2,055 for a six-year term.

The Budget Commit-

tee's two-year seat went to Kevin Walsh with 2,023 votes.

The Supervisor of Checklist four-year term position went to Kathleen Haloon with 2,031 votes.

Michelle Brewster retained her three-year Town Clerk position with 2,133 votes.

Trustee of the Trust Funds three-year term seat went to Harry A. Schibanoff with 2,043 votes.

### Warrant Articles

Articles 5, 17 and 18 failed, all other were passed by voters.

Article 5, Create One Part-Time Prosecutor Attorney Position for \$90,275 failed 1,553-1,148.

Article 17, Change Planning Board Member-

ship from Elected to Appointed (by Petition) failed 2,151-552

Article 18, Default Budget - Budget Committee Delegation (by Petition) failed 1,883-742.

Articles passed were:

Article 2, General Fund Operating Budget \$41,648,355 - 1,675-1,046

Article 3, Sewer Fund Operating Budget \$2,065,033 - 2264-446

Article 4, Water Fund Operating Budget \$4,043,274 - 2073-633

Article 6, Hire Four Firefighter/AEMT's \$295,315 - 1671-1050

Article 7, Robinson Pond Improvements \$500,000 - 1,443-1296

Article 8, Route 102 New Sidewalks \$2,000,000 - 2,107-649

Article 9, Fire Appara-

tus/Equipment Purchase \$96,030 - 2,286-463

Article 10, Drainage Capital Reserve Fund \$50,000 - 1,628-1,089

Article 11, Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund \$25,000 - 1,408-1,316

Article 12, Disabled Veteran Tax Credit Adjustment - 2,444-276

Article 13, Establish an Extreme Weather Expendable Trust Fund - \$1,000 1,889-811

Article 14, Revise Benson Land Capital Reserve Fund - 2,220-483

Article 15, Ratification of 9 Industrial Drive Lease Agreement - 2,151-519

Article 16, Modify Hudson Community Television Revolving Fund - 1,403-1,272

Article 19, New Term

Length for Supervisors of the Checklist (by Petition) - 2,249-429

Article 20, Protecting the Taxpayer (by Petition) - 2,347-342

Article 21, Amend Article XIII A- Accessory Dwelling Units Zoning 2,011-632

Article 22, Amend Table of Permitted Principal Uses - Family Day Care Home and Family Group Care Home - Zoning - 1,885-768

Article 23, Amend Table of Minimum Dimensional Requirements - TR Setbacks - Zoning 1,393-1,251

Article 24, Amend 334-110 Growth Management - Findings - Zoning 1,902-679

Article 25, Rezone Parcels from Business to Residential-2 (by Petition) - Zoning 1,844-760

# School District Has Most Articles Pass in Election

CHRIS PAUL  
HUDSON TIMES

There were well under 3,000 Hudson voters at this year's town and school elections last week and those residents that made their way to the polls voted in two School Board candidates, three positions and ten Warrant Articles. Only two articles failed in the March 10 election, held at Alvirne High School and

Hudson Memorial with 2,790 votes cast.

Winning the two, three-year School Board seats were: Ethan Beals - 1,217 and Heather Cook - 1,309. Craig Powers had 1,032 votes and Michael Campbell got 1,083.

For School Moderator, Paul E. Inderbitzen had 2,174 votes and took the three-year position.

The three-year School

District Clerk position went to Dianne Cannava with 2,079 votes.

Thomas Barrett won the School Treasurer position with 2085 votes.

Article 1: The Operating Budget of \$72,866,427 - Passed 1,994-755

Article 2: Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Hudson School Board and PSRPs - \$363,639 - Passed 1,882-

875.

Article 3: Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Hudson School Board and AFSCME - \$235,082 - Failed 1,364-1,368.

Article 4: Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Hudson School Board and the TEAMSTERS - \$56,405 - Passed - 1,679-1,059.

Article 5: Window Replacement at Hudson Memorial School - \$135,000 - Passed - 2,106-

639.

Article 6: Fire Alarm Panel Replacement at Alvirne High School - \$180,000 - Passed 2,423-332.

Article 7: Science Lab Renovation at Hudson Memorial School - \$125,000 - Passed 2252-566.

Article 8: District Wide Facilities HVAC Vehicle \$62,000 - Passed - 2,045-701.

Article 9: Increasing Funds in the Capital

Reserve School Renovation Fund -\$50,000 - Passed 1,875-889.

Article 10: Increasing Funds in the Alvirne Farm Capital Reserve Fund - \$100,000 - Passed 1,929-820.

Article 11: Employee Benefits Capital Reserve Fund - \$1 - Passed 1,493-1,184.

Article 12: Default Budget Determination (By Petition) - \$0 - Failed 1,201-1,436.



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# PartTime Police Prosecutor Position Rejected by Voters

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The only non-citizen petition warrant article to fail during Hudson's March Town Election was the proposal to create a part-time prosecutor position for the Hudson Police Department. Despite support from both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee, voters ultimately rejected the measure.

Police Chief David Cayot had previously explained that the request stemmed from a significant increase in police activity

over the past year. During budget discussions, he told officials that the department has seen a steady rise in call volume and arrests.

"I showed you that our arrest numbers have gone up, and they are the highest they've been since we've come out of COVID," Cayot said. With more arrests come more court dates, more paperwork, and more evidence processing, including body camera footage and, more recently, recordings from newly added in car cameras.

"There's a lot of extra

work that's going into that," he said, noting that the department's legal division has not expanded in years despite the growing caseload.

Cayot also pointed to the end of the state's "Felony First" system, which previously shifted felony level cases directly to the County Attorney's Office. With that program discontinued, Hudson officers and legal staff must now handle probable cause hearings for felony charges before cases are transferred to the county.

He warned that the workload is reaching a point where the department fears it may struggle to ensure timely and thorough prosecution. "We're getting to the point where our legal team is concerned they can't get justice for all their cases because of the amount of workload at the station and at the court," Cayot said.

The Board of Selectmen voted 4-1 to recommend the warrant article, and the Budget Committee supported it by a 7-3 vote.

During the Deliberative

Session, Selectman Xen Vurgaropulos described the current system, noting that Hudson's legal administrative staff already handles case preparation, court coordination, and courtroom representation. But, he said, "The case volume and complexity of the legal process have increased. These responsibilities have placed additional demands on the department and resources in

staff time."

He argued that adding a part-time prosecutor would provide needed legal expertise to review evidence, prepare cases, and ensure consistent court coverage.

Earlier in the budget process, there had also been discussion about converting an existing part-time position to full-time, but that proposal did not advance to the ballot.

## School Board Approves Various Nominations

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board approved a wide slate of coaching and staff nominations during its most recent meeting, filling positions across multiple spring sports and extracurricular programs at both Alvirne High School and Hudson Memorial School.

The Board unanimously approved the following coaching appointments for Alvirne:

- Adam Dufault: Girls Track Coach
- Phil Demers: Boys Varsity Track Coach
- Kaitlyn Wilson: Assistant Track Coach
- Jeff Ogiba: Assistant Track Coach
- Jonathan White: Unified Track and Field Coach

- Colin Stone: Boys Varsity Tennis Coach

- Shannon McCarthy: Girls Varsity Tennis Coach

- Molly Norton: Girls Varsity Lacrosse Coach

- Richard Sperazzo: Boys Varsity Lacrosse Coach

- Jessica Toomey: JV Softball Coach

The approvals ensure that all spring athletic programs at Alvirne are fully staffed heading into the season.

The Board also unanimously approved several middle school coaching positions:

- Jeffrey Nichols: Baseball
- Megan Radziewicz: Softball
- Robert Segal: Track and Field

- Dave Melanson: Track and Field

Administrators noted that filling these positions early helps ensure smooth preparation for the spring sports schedule.

In other business, the Board reviewed a request from the East Coast Camaro Club to use the Hills Grounds on August 23 for an event. The Board unanimously approved the request, consistent with past practice of allowing community groups to utilize district property when available.

The Board also approved a budget transfer involving special education accounts. The proposal moved \$95,000 from the tuition special services line to the special education professional services line to

cover payments to Easter Seals.

Following the transfer:

- The special education services line will have a balance of \$66,851.95

- The tuition special services line will have a balance of \$181,392.67

Administrators said the adjustment was necessary to align funding with actual service needs for the remainder of the fiscal year.

As part of correspondence, the Board was briefed on a previously approved staff travel request. David Bressler received approval to attend the ACF National Convention from June 28 to July 2, with an authorized cost of \$2,700.

The School Board is scheduled to meet again on March 23 at 6:30 p.m.

## OBITUARY

### Jeanne P. (Aiken) Brown



Jeanne P. (Aiken) Brown, a longtime resident of Hudson, NH, passed away peacefully at her home on Sunday, March 8, 2026, after a short illness, surrounded by her loving family.

Jeanne was the daughter of the late John Kenneth Aiken and Mary Pauline (Bain) Aiken.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Russell E. Brown, Jr.; her sister, Doris E. (Aiken) Stuart; and her partner of 18 years, James Murphy.

From the time she was 11 years old, Jeanne had a deep love of horses. Inspired by her grandfather, who had been a head groomer while living in Scotland, she took every opportunity to ride or simply spend time with horses. She also had a lifelong affection for animals and loved dogs, cats, and other small pets. Jeanne cherished Lake Champlain and spent many happy summers there from childhood through adulthood.

Jeanne graduated from Springfield High School in Springfield, VT, where she shared her musical talents by playing piano at school events. After graduation, she attended the University of Vermont with the goal of becoming a dental hygienist. However, after one year she left school to care for her mother.

Jeanne married Russell E. Brown, Jr. after he completed basic training in the military. She then began life as an Air Force wife, moving from base to base before they were stationed at Shaw Air Force Base. Three months after the birth of their daughter, the family left military life and Jeanne began the next chapter of her life raising their four children.

Following the passing of her husband at the age of 48, Jeanne returned to the workforce and worked for Raytheon in Andover, MA for ten years as a dispatcher.

Later in life, Jeanne found love again with her partner, James Murphy. Together they shared a passion for motorcycles and traveled extensively throughout the U.S., as well as to Mexico and England. They also shared a deep love of bluegrass music, traveling throughout New England to attend concerts and festivals in their tag-along trailer.

Jeanne enjoyed baking and cooking for her family and especially loved sewing clothes for her four children when they were young. She also found joy in painting, knitting, and crocheting. Her home was always open to anyone who needed a place to stay, and she was known for her warmth, kindness, and willingness to listen and help others.

Jeanne is survived by her loving children: her daughter Kathleen (Brown) Peterson and Paul Beasley of Derry, NH; her son Russell E. Brown III and his wife Cathleen (Dubois) Brown of Goffstown, NH; her son James K. Brown and his wife Donna (Chantal) Brown of Nashua, NH; and her son Carl A. Brown of Amherst, NH. She also leaves her cherished granddaughters Jennifer (Peterson) Colburn, April Jordan, Erika (Peterson) Soucy, and Candice (Brown) Franscone, along with eleven great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Following cremation, a time of visitation was held on Saturday, March 14 at Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made in Jeanne's loving memory to Hidden Pond Equine Rescue ([hiddenpondequinerescue.org](http://hiddenpondequinerescue.org)), a nonprofit horse rescue organization. A small gathering will be held at Jeanne's home in Hudson following the visitation. To share an online message of condolence please visit [www.dumontsullivan.com](http://www.dumontsullivan.com). The Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

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# Editorial

## Waiting for Spring to Spring

Every year in New Hampshire, we reach that hopeful moment when the snow-banks finally begin to shrink. The sun feels a little warmer, the days stretch a little longer, and we start imagining green grass and blooming flowers. But before spring gives us anything lovely, it gives us... well, the annual unveiling of our unofficial state crop: roadside litter.

As the snow melts, the landscape reveals a familiar mix of mud, matted leaves, and the unmistakable "blooming garbage" that sprouts faithfully each year. Fastfood bags, plastic cups, and mystery wrappers reappear like artifacts from a long lost civilization, one that apparently lived on drive-thru meals and tossed everything out the window.

It would be funny if it weren't so frustrating. Actually, it is a little funny, in that "laugh so you don't cry" kind of way. But it's also a reminder that our environment remembers everything we leave behind.

Thankfully, every town has those unsung heroes who emerge each spring armed with gloves, trash bags, and a level of patience the rest of us can only aspire to. They clean up roadsides, town greens, school grounds, and anywhere else winter's thaw reveals a mess. Their work is invaluable, but they can't do it alone. A clean community isn't a spectator

sport, it's a team effort.

And the good news is, it doesn't take much. A short walk up and down your street, even just a house or two in each direction, can make a real difference. Think of it as spring cleaning, but outdoors, and with more fresh air and fewer dust bunnies. Picking up even a handful of litter helps keep it out of storm drains, streams, and eventually the ocean. Small actions, multiplied across a town, create real environmental impact.

Of course, spring brings its own challenges. The furnace still kicks on at inconvenient hours, the mud tries to steal your boots, and the pollen prepares its annual assault on our sinuses. But take heart: if you've survived another New England winter, you're already tougher than most. A little roadside cleanup won't scare you.

Soon enough, the flowers will bloom, the grass will green, and the air will warm. Summer will arrive before we know it. But wouldn't it be nice if we could enjoy a spring that looks as fresh and hopeful as it feels?

So as the snow melts and the world wakes up again, let's give our towns a little help waking up, too. Grab a bag, take a walk, and do your part to make sure spring arrives to a landscape worthy of its beauty.

After all, we've waited long enough for it.

## DES Asks Town to Compile Information on Town-Managed Conservation Land

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Conservation Commission met on March 9 to review a request from the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES), which is asking municipalities statewide to update information on their conservation properties.

"They're just looking for towns to update information on conservation properties," explained Secretary Chris Cameron. "They want to know the status of municipal forests, an update to a 2018 UNH report, the presence and acreage of the forests, whether each forest has a management plan, links if those plans are posted on the municipal website, whether we have a conservation plan, I assume our Open Space Plan would fit that description, and if we have any other planning efforts."

Cameron recommended sending DES all relevant documents, including Hudson's most recent Master Plan.

Chair Carl Murphy asked which town forests currently have formal management plans. According to Vice-Chair Ken Dickinson, the Kimball Hill Town Forest and the Rangers

Town Forest both have plans in place, while others, such as Colburn Town Forest, do not.

"Those were all done within the last eight years," Dickinson said. "I don't think it makes sense to have management plans for all of the forests based on my prior conversation with the gentleman who prepared our previous one."

He explained that factors such as parcel size, forest age, and the need for harvesting or maintenance determine whether a management plan is warranted.

"For example, we went through Colburn and did a quick walkthrough where it was determined that the wood, on average, was too young to consider doing something like a harvest. So, we didn't focus on Colburn. We focused on Rangers instead," Dickinson said. "The gentleman who performed the last forest management plan took a look at some of the parcels in town. The one he suggested we do a management plan for was Musquash."

The Musquash Conservation Area, while protected land, is not technically classified as a town forest. Still, Dickinson noted that parts of Musquash could benefit from selective harvesting.

"It definitely could use some improvement in harvesting in certain sections," he said. "I think we chose not to pursue it because it would shut down the conservation area for a period of time, and we were working on other projects. Plus, there's limited access over there."

He added that the decision not to move forward with a Musquash management plan was made about five years ago, and the Commission may want to "revisit" the issue now that DES is taking a closer look at municipal conservation practices.

Commissioner John Walter noted that the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions is also asking communities to update their natural resource inventories.

"They want to unload those conservation plans and circulate them around the state," Walter said.

Cameron offered to compile a complete information package for state and regional officials.

The next meeting of the Hudson Conservation Commission is scheduled for Monday, April 13, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Meeting Room at Town Hall.

## Town

**Continued from page 1** recommendation, explaining that because the petition carried no monetary value, it was not required to weigh in. However, committee members did discuss the history and intent behind the default budget process.

Budget Committee member Shawn Jasper offered a detailed explanation of how Hudson's default budget system evolved after the town adopted Senate Bill 2 many years ago. He noted that the default budget was originally intended to be a restrictive fallback option that encouraged cooperation in crafting a reasonable

operating budget. "Before, the default budget and the proposed operating budget were always worlds apart," Jasper said.

Over time, however, Jasper explained that the default budget has occasionally exceeded the proposed operating budget, something he said should be nearly impossible if the law is followed strictly. He emphasized that there is no enforcement mechanism to ensure the default budget is calculated as intended, which has contributed to ongoing debate about who should control the process.

Jasper said that while he personally dislikes seeing the default budget pass, he believes it is an important

option for taxpayers and that delegating its calculation to the Budget Committee aligns with the original intent of the law. He ultimately supported recommending the proposed operating budget but said the petition's goal was understandable.

Despite the discussion, voters rejected the article 1,883 to 747, opting to keep the current system in place.

Both petition articles generated significant conversation in the weeks leading up to the election, but the results show that Hudson residents were not persuaded to make structural changes to either the Planning Board or the budget process this year.

# THE Hudson Times

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# School Board Gives OK on Career Exploration Policy

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board has given its final approval to a comprehensive update of its Career Exploration, Readiness, Pathways and Credentialing policy, a document that outlines how students will be introduced to career options from kindergarten through graduation. The revised policy, which has been under review for several months, is designed to create a more structured, developmentally appropriate approach to career awareness and planning across all grade levels.

The policy begins by emphasizing the School Board's commitment to helping students understand and navigate future career opportunities. "The Hudson School Board recognizes the importance of guiding students toward career readiness through explo-

ration that aligns with their cognitive, social, and emotional development," the document states. The goal, it notes, is to foster "engagement, curiosity, and informed decision making" throughout a student's educational journey.

To accomplish this, the policy outlines specific expectations for each grade span. At the elementary level, students will be introduced to career awareness through school counseling lessons, storytelling, hands on activities, and community engagement. Teachers, counselors, and administrators will help students explore a variety of professions through classroom discussions, guest speakers, and interactive experiences. The focus at this stage is on building foundational skills such as teamwork, creativity, and problem solving.

In middle school, career

exploration becomes more intentional. Students will begin connecting academic interests to real world applications through class assignments, career fairs, job shadowing opportunities, and project based learning. They will also participate in self assessment activities to help identify strengths and interests. The policy notes that middle school programming should continue to build on organizational and self regulation skills developed in earlier grades.

At the high school level, the policy shifts toward applied exploration and career engagement. Students will have access to career focused electives, Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, dual and concurrent enrollment opportunities, and Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs). School counselors will

meet individually with students to support personalized career pathway planning, helping them 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 students with practical experience.

A major component of the updated policy is the section on Career Readiness Pathways and Credentials. Beginning with the incoming freshman class, the district will assess each student's career interests and advise them on how to earn

a recognized career readiness credential by graduation. These credentials, such as OSHA 10, ServSafe, Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA), or Dental Assistant, must be based on statewide, CTE, or nationally normed standards.

The district will document each student's progress toward earning a credential and include that information on transcripts. Additionally, the district must report annually to the New Hampshire Department of Education the number of students completing CTE programs, dual or concurrent enrollment courses, ELOs, work based learning

experiences, and career ready credentials.

Implementation of the policy will require coordination among the Superintendent, Director of School Counseling, Career Development Coordinator, building principals, and the CTE Director. Together, they will develop guidelines to ensure career exploration and pathway planning are delivered appropriately at each grade level.

The School Board voted unanimously to approve the updated policy, signaling strong support for expanding structured career readiness opportunities for Hudson students.



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# School Board Approves 2026–2027 District Calendar

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The School Board voted unanimously at its most recent meeting to approve the 2026–2027 school calendar, finalizing next year’s schedule after reviewing key dates, contractual requirements, and feedback from families.

Superintendent Dan Moulis walked the Board through the proposed calendar, noting that the district would begin the school year on Monday, Aug. 24, 2026.

“We would be looking to start the school year on

Aug. 24,” Moulis said.

The first week of school will be a four day week for both students and staff, with no school on Friday, Aug. 28. The following week, from Aug. 31 to Sept. 3, will also be a four day week, with no school on Friday, Sept. 4.

Labor Day falls on Monday, Sept. 7, and the district will observe the holiday. The next day, Sept. 8, is the state primary election, which means a teacher workshop day and no school for students.

The first full week of school for students will

begin Sept. 14.

In October, students will have no school on Friday, Oct. 9, followed by Columbus Day on Monday, Oct. 12.

Election Day, Nov. 3, will again serve as a teacher workshop day, with students off. Schools will also be closed on Nov. 11 for Veterans Day.

Thanksgiving break will begin on Wednesday, Nov. 25, giving families a long holiday weekend.

The last day before winter break will be Dec. 23, with the holiday break officially beginning on

Dec. 24. Students will return to school on Monday, Jan. 4.

Martin Luther King Jr./Civil Rights Day will be observed on Jan. 18, with no school.

A teacher workshop and early release day is scheduled for Feb. 10, followed by February vacation from Feb. 22 – 26.

In March, March 9 will be a teacher workshop day with no school for students.

Spring break will take place April 26 – 30.

The district will observe Memorial Day on

May 31, with no school.

The last day of school for students is scheduled for June 17, which includes three built-in snow days. If fewer snow days are used, the last day may be earlier.

During the meeting, Moulis addressed feedback from families who felt the Aug. 24 start date was early. He noted that Labor Day falls on its latest possible date in 2026, pushing the holiday into the second week of September.

Because of contractual obligations, the district cannot extend the school year past a certain date.

Starting later would push the last day of school too close to that limit.

“If we changed the first day of school, it would shift the entire calendar,” Moulis explained. “The last day of school would be up against when the last day can be under contracts.”

He also noted that the start date is consistent with the district’s calendar this year.

After reviewing the schedule and discussing the constraints, the School Board voted unanimously to approve the 2026–2027 school calendar.

# Budget Committee Seeks Better Communication With Schools

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

During its March 4 meeting, the Hudson Budget Committee discussed ways to improve communication and collaboration with the School District, following concerns from Committee member Shawn Jasper about limited feedback during this year’s budget cycle.

“I’ve heard certain things, but what we know is that we did not have the school principals here for our discussions, which was not helpful,” Jasper said. “That really needs to happen.”

Beyond communication issues, several members reiterated frustrations with the formatting of the most recent school budget.

“I don’t have a problem with the format of the town budget, but the school budget was an unmitigated disaster,” Jasper said. “I think we need to have a budget that’s either all function or all object. My preference would be to have a budget that was by school, but I may be the only one that feels that way. The other way to do it is to say all the English teachers, all the principals are together, or something like that. We

can’t have a budget like we had, and I think we need to set a very clear directive on what we want.”

Vice-Chair Kim Rice supported the idea of breaking the numbers down by school.

“I like the idea of each school having their own budget, because we see the enrollment on that budget, the number of students and stuff that they have,” she said. “It would be in our best interest.”

Comparing school spending to declining student enrollment has been a recurring point of discussion in Hudson in recent years.

Committee member Bob Wherry suggested the group take a more proactive approach.

“Maybe we could, as a Budget Committee, develop specifications for how we want the budget to appear to us when it arrives,” he said. “It might be very helpful to standardize something we would expect, and do some work to lay that out. Doesn’t have to be an extensive document, but a few to several pages that would at least delineate our expectations at a broad level for what we need in order to make a good evaluation of the budget.”

The committee plans to begin that process over the

next two months by inviting the Superintendent and Business Administrator to a future meeting for further discussion.

Member Donna Boucher also called for more consistent communication with school officials, suggesting the committee invite administrators to “review expenditures periodically.”

“We should be asking to get these reports from the school every month,” Jasper added.

Committee Chair James Lawrence urged patience as the committee prepares for the next budget cycle, noting the impact of the recent town election.

“I want to remind the

committee that I don’t want to be presumptive about anything going forward,” Lawrence said. “I think we should give the Budget Committee at least one meeting to organize itself and figure out what it wants to do going forward, but I don’t have a problem with inviting the Superintendent and the Business Administrator to come and have this conversation.”

While any changes to the budget formatting process are expected to take months, the Committee formally agreed to request that the School Superintendent and Business Administrator attend the April Budget Committee meeting.

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# Selectmen OK Use of Corridor Funds for Right-of-Way

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously at its most recent meeting to allocate additional corridor funds for the purchase of right-of-way needed for the long planned Lowell Road improvement project. The decision follows several years of study and months of negotiation with affected property owners.

Director of Development Services Elvis Dhima presented the request, the

Board that he had previously received approval to negotiate the acquisition of the necessary land.

“As you know from a couple of meetings ago, I came in front of you to get the amount approved to purchase the right-of-way that we need,” Dhima said.

In a memo submitted ahead of the meeting, Dhima outlined the history of the project, which stems from a comprehensive assessment of Lowell Road and County Road initiated

by the Planning Board in 2019.

“The resulting study evaluated several improvement scenarios and identified the most effective long term solution as the construction of a new roadway segment connecting Belknap Road to Lowell Road, along with converting the existing three-way intersection into a four-way intersection,” Dhima wrote.

The study was prompted by longstanding concerns about traffic congestion, turning movements, and safety at one of Hudson’s busiest corridors. The proposed new roadway segment is intended to relieve pressure on the intersection and improve overall traffic flow.

Dhima informed the Board that the owners of 76 and 88 Lowell Road had agreed to sell the portions of their properties needed

for the project.

“They have signed the purchase and sales agreement,” he said. “We had our attorneys look at the deed. Everything is good to go.”

However, Dhima noted that additional work is required to finalize the transaction, including surveying, monumentation, and administrative permitting.

“These purchases will require reference to recorded plans associated with the lot line relocations for both properties,” he wrote in his memo. “The additional funds are related to the preparation of surveying plans for the lot line relocations, installation of monu-

mentation, and the administrative Dredge and Fill permit.”

Dhima requested an additional \$21,600 to cover these remaining expenses. He emphasized that the cost would not impact the general fund.

“The funds will be covered by the corridor funds that we’ve been collecting through the years from the Planning Board,” he said. “These additional efforts will require a change order in the amount of \$21,600, to be funded through available corridor funds.”

He also noted that the Planning Board had already reviewed and endorsed the

use of corridor funds for this purpose.

“The Planning Board already reviewed this and they blessed it,” Dhima said. “So it’s for final approval from you, who are the ones that actually allocate the funds.”

After brief discussion, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to approve the additional \$21,600 from corridor funds, clearing the way for the town to complete the right-of-way acquisition and move the project closer to shovel ready status.

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

## School

**Continued from page 1**  
of the day, 2,423 to 332. Because the project will be funded through the June 30 fund balance, it has no tax rate impact.

Article 7, the renovation of a science lab at Hudson Memorial School, also passed easily, 2,252 to 566. Like the fire alarm project, it will be funded through the year end fund balance and will not affect the tax rate.

Article 8, which funds the purchase of a district wide facilities HVAC vehicle, passed 2,045 to 701. This article also uses the year end fund balance and carries no tax impact.

Voters additionally approved two capital reserve fund contributions. Article 9, adding funds to the Capital Reserve School Renovation Fund, passed 1,875 to 889. Article 10, adding funds to the Alvirne Farm Capital Reserve Fund, passed 1,929 to 820. Both articles draw from the end of year fund balance rather

than taxation.

Overall, Hudson voters showed strong support for maintaining school facilities and funding most district operations, while narrowly rejecting one labor contract. The results set the stage for the district’s financial planning heading into the next fiscal year.

## 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 predeceased 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, NH from noon - 1:30 p.m. followed by a Prayer Service at 1:30 p.m. in the funeral home. Burial will be private.

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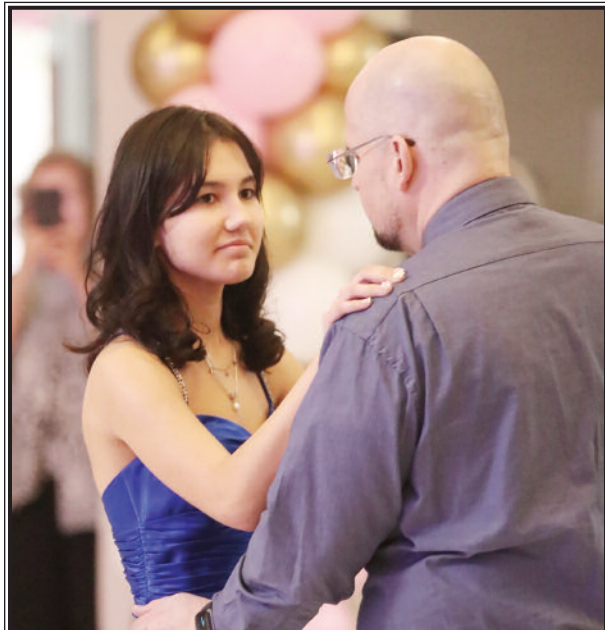
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# Quinceañera Ball

Continued from page 1

community gathering, symbolizing the young woman's passage into maturity while honoring cultural heritage and traditions. The celebration first became widely recognized in the

United States in the 1930s and continues today

as a way for families to preserve cultural customs and strengthen community ties.

At Alvirne, the evening combined traditional quinceañera customs with an educational element, as students explained the meaning behind each ceremony to those in attendance.

The program opened with welcoming remarks from Superintendent Daniel Moulis and AHS Principal Steve Beals, followed by members of the Foreign Language student leadership who provided an explanation of the traditions associated with a quinceañera celebration.

Several symbolic ceremonies highlighted the

evening.

One tradition featured the "last doll," in which student Celeste Burn presented her final childhood doll to a younger girl, symbolizing the transition from childhood to young adulthood.

Another ceremony, the changing of the shoes, represented a young woman's step into maturity. During the tradition, Khloe Ramirez had her flat shoes replaced with high heels by her mother, Betzadia Ramirez.

The crowning ceremony followed, with several students receiving tiaras as a symbol of honor and family pride. Somora Choate was crowned by Carol Marcin, Ava Linscott by Michelle Tieman, and Jada McDonald by Miranda McDonald.

A special father-daughter moment took place when Lilah Christopher shared a traditional dance with her father, Michael Christopher.

The celebration continued with the presentation of the quinceañera court, as damas (female attendants) and chambelanes (male escorts) were introduced. The court performed a formal waltz followed by a lively merengue dance before the evening transitioned into a festive celebration.

Guests then enjoyed dinner before participating in one of the most meaningful traditions of the evening - the Ceremony of the 15 Candles.

In this custom, the quinceañera calls forward

15 individuals who played important roles during her first 15 years of life, lighting a candle with each person while recognizing their influence and support.

The evening concluded with cake and the singing of "Happy Birthday," bringing the celebration to a joyful close.

Organizers said the event not only honors an important cultural milestone but also helps share traditions with the broader school community.

For many of the students involved, the Quinceañera Ball was both a celebration and an opportunity to connect with heritage, family, and friends - all while keeping a cherished cultural tradition alive.

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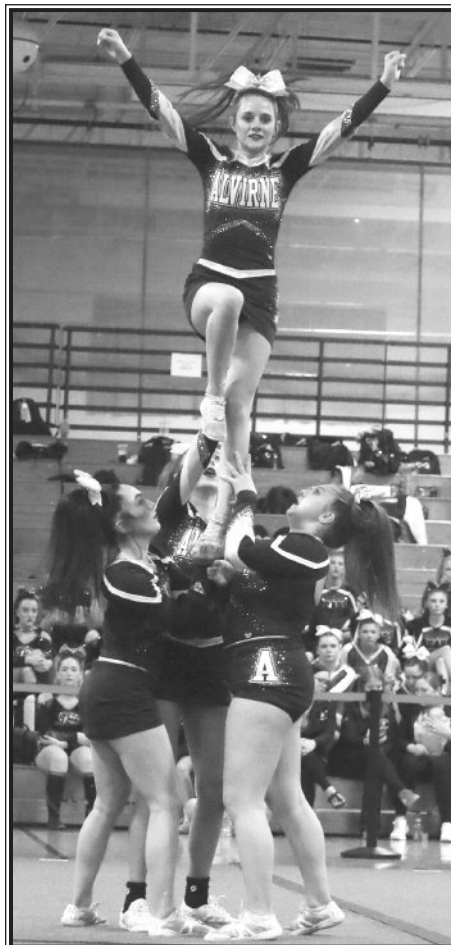
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# HUDSON SPORTS

## Broncos Winter Cheer Team Moves On To New Englands



**CHRIS PAUL**  
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne High School Cheerleading team qualified for the NHIAA Winter State Championship by scoring in the top five of the Division I standings, scoring a 102.1 and placing them in third.

The top five score put the team in competition with teams from all three divisions on Thursday night, March 12, at Pinkerton Academy.

At the Division I Preliminaries the Pinkerton Astros took first-place with 106.6-points, the Dover Green Wave was second,

with 103.5-points, the Alvirne Broncos captured third-place at 102.1, the Lancers got 96.9-points for fourth and the Salem got the final spot with a score of 94.1.

Position wise, the results in Thursday night's State Championship were relatively the same, but

because Dover is a co-ed team, Alvirne moved up to second place in all-girls division and Londonderry High School took the third all-girls spot and both are heading to the New England Competition at Worcester State in Mass. Saturday, March 21, along with Pinkerton and Dover.

Scores were: PA 105.7, Dover 105.2, Alvirne 100.6 and LHS won a tie-breaker with 95.4 over Salem.

The Broncos team members are: Katie Considine, Shayla Dubois, Alanna Tardiff, Lexi Martorana and Julia Allison. Juniors Aliana Giroux and Abby Labonte. Sophomores, Ava

Gove Emma Peterson. Freshmen, Sophie Dudley and Leah Lussier.

The Broncos Winter Cheer's Head Coach is Shyla Francoeur and she is assisted by Angela Auger and Jessica Siefert. The team manager is listed as Sammie Boisvert.

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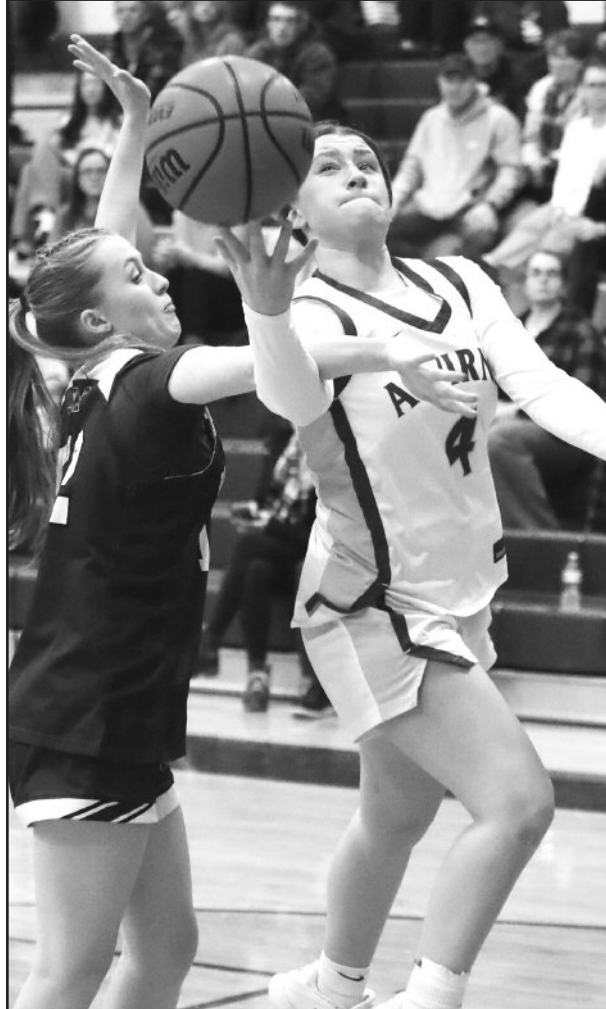
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# Basketball Season Ends, One Bronco Makes All-State



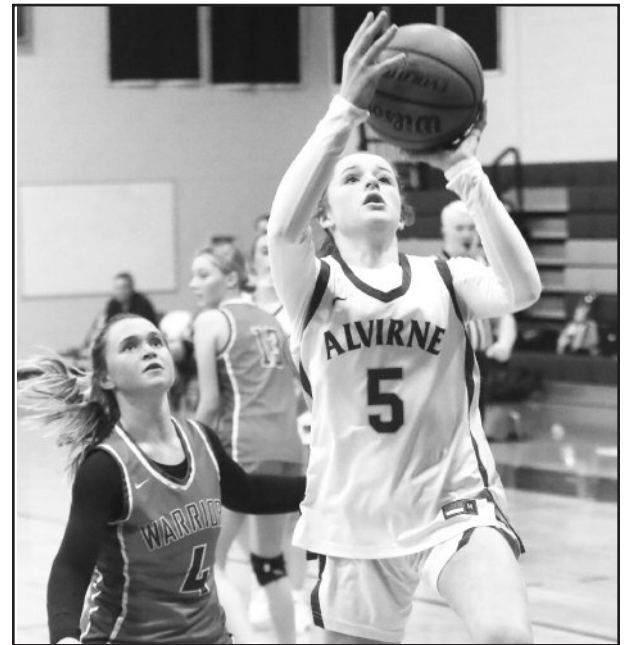
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**CHRIS PAUL**  
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne High School basketball season ended earlier this month, with the Boys team finishing its regular season with a record of 12-6 and went 1-1 in the Division I playoffs.

The Lady Broncos came

around in the second half of the season, to finish at 6-12 and was able to take the final playoff spot in the state championship bracket.

The boys had a 55-43 first round win over the Keene Blackbirds at home, but fell 60-62 at Trinity High School in overtime to

the Pioneers in the quarter-finals as the #6 seed.

The girls team had the #16 seed and played the #1 Concord Christian Kingsmen in the first round and fell 29-54.

Last week, the New Hampshire Basketball Coaches Organization

made their picks for the All-State teams and Broncos senior center Garrett Hall was named to the Division I First-Team.

Hall was an essential part of the team the past two seasons and led the squad in rebounds and scoring.

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# A Long Two Days in Concord and What It Means Back Home

CHRIS PAUL  
HUDSON TIMES

Concord was a busy place this week as lawmakers pushed through one of the longest and most consequential stretches of the 2026 legislative session. Over two marathon days, the House worked its way through hundreds of bills. The Senate also took action on several key measures. For communities like Londonderry and Hudson, the results were a mix of encouraging steps forward, new challenges, and significant changes that will shape local government for years to come.

A major theme this week was the sheer number of bills aimed at SB 2 communities. Several passed, and together they represent some of the most sweeping changes to the SB 2 process in recent memory. Lawmakers approved measures that change how default budgets are calculated, eliminate the default budget entirely if the operating budget fails, shift authority for determining

the default budget from the governing body to the budget committee, and move the vote to adopt SB 2 to the official ballot. Both Londonderry and Hudson rely heavily on predictable budgeting and long term planning, and these changes could complicate hiring, salary adjustments, and financial flexibility. The NH Municipal Association (NHMA) opposed all of these bills, warning that they reduce local control and create new hurdles for towns trying to manage routine operations.

Zoning and land use were also front and center. One bill allows towns to create "housing opportunity zones," which could be a useful tool for communities trying to encourage development in targeted areas. But other bills chipped away at local authority. A childcare bill passed that overrides local zoning in many cases, allowing in home childcare by right in residential zones and commercial childcare in most commercial zones without site plan review. Another

bill allowing tiny houses and yurts advanced. For fast growing towns like Londonderry and Hudson, these changes will require careful navigation.

Several bills passed that expand municipal liability and increase the risk of lawsuits. One prohibits DEI related contract language and allows citizens anywhere in the state to sue municipalities over alleged violations. Another expands damage caps and mandates indemnification of employees. These changes could lead to higher insurance costs and more legal exposure for towns.

Election related legislation also saw movement. A bill expanding the definition of electioneering passed, restricting public bodies from using surveys, polls, or questionnaires on issues that could appear on a ballot. For towns that rely on public input to shape warrant articles or long term planning, this will require a more cautious approach.

Other bills with local impact include a measure

allowing towns to issue 72 hour temporary no trespass orders, with strict rules for extending them; a PFAS related bill shielding farmers from liability tied to standard agricultural practices, avoiding a moratorium that would have increased municipal wastewater costs; and Senate approved updates to the state building and fire codes, which modernize enforcement and align local practice with new recommendations. Risk pool legislation also moved, with one bill clarifying rules for municipal insurance pools passing the House, another being killed in the Senate, and a third still under review.

Looking ahead, the Senate will take up several more municipal bills next week, including proposals on flood resilience planning, veterans' tax credits, warrant article procedures, and municipal remittance thresholds. NHMA is also inviting local officials to submit policy ideas for the next legislative cycle.

• Default Budget Over-

haul (HB 1224, HB 1355, HB 1575): These bills fundamentally change how SB 2 towns build and manage budgets.

• Electioneering Restrictions (HB 686): Limits how towns can gather public input. Hudson relies heavily on surveys and questionnaires; this bill makes that much harder.

• Childcare Zoning Preemption (HB 1195): Overrides local zoning for childcare facilities, removing site plan review in many cases. Adjustments will need to be added to zoning enforcement and planning processes.

• Expanded Municipal Liability (HB 1064, HB 1788): Increases legal exposure and potential insurance costs. This affects every department, from police to public works.

• Tiny Houses & Yurts (HB 1681): Adds new housing types that towns must be prepared to regulate, even though technical issues remain unresolved.

For residents of Londonderry and Hudson, the

legislative changes this week translate into several real world impacts:

• Budget uncertainty may increase, making it harder for towns to plan long term and potentially leading to more special meetings or abrupt adjustments.

• Insurance and legal costs could rise, driven by expanded liability and new avenues for lawsuits.

• Zoning authority continues to erode, meaning more state mandated uses in local neighborhoods.

• Public input may become more limited, as towns must be cautious about surveys or questionnaires that could be interpreted as electioneering.

• Infrastructure and service demands may grow, especially with new housing types and childcare facilities allowed by right.

In short, taxpayers may see more volatility in budgeting, more pressure on municipal services, and fewer local tools to manage growth and development.

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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)

## 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>.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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>.

## 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.

## Elementary Sheep Art

On Thursday, March 26 at 5:30 p.m., Grades 1-5 are invited to make a sheep with paper doilies and black paper at the Rodgers Library.

## 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.

## 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).

## 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

continued on page 14

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# Two Quiet Bills Could Silence the Public - Erode NH's Right to Know

CHRIS PAUL  
HUDSON TIMES

Two bills heading into the 2026 legislative session aren't making much noise yet - but they should. HB 1181 FN and HB 1369 both take aim at one of the most basic protections New Hampshire residents have: the right to be notified before government makes decisions that affect them.

These proposals don't streamline government. They sideline the public.

And in a state that prides itself on local control and open meetings, that should set off alarms.

A Slow Creep Toward Less Transparency has been occurring over the years, public notice laws have been the backbone of New Hampshire's citizen driven government. They ensure

residents know when a zoning decision is being appealed, when a major vote is coming, or when a meeting could change the direction of a neighborhood.

These two bills chip away at that foundation - quietly, but significantly.

The first one is HB 1181 FN: Appeals Without Public Awareness; Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) appeals can reshape entire neighborhoods. They can overturn decisions residents fought for, revive projects that were denied, or change how land can be used next door.

Right now, when someone appeals a ZBA decision, the public is notified. That notice is often the only way neighbors learn that something is happening.

HB 1181 FN would

eliminate that requirement.

Without notice, an appeal could move forward with no public awareness. No abutters showing up. No residents weighing in. No one watching except the parties involved.

The New Hampshire Planners Association is strongly opposed, warning that the bill undermines transparency and public trust. And they're right - this isn't a minor procedural tweak. It's a direct hit to the public's ability to stay informed about decisions that affect their homes, their property values, and their quality of life.

Next is HB 1369: Special Town Meetings Without Public Notice: Special Town Meetings are rare, but when they happen, they matter. They're used for

emergency appropriations, bonding, zoning changes, and major policy decisions that can't wait for the regular Town Meeting cycle.

Public notice has always been required. It's how residents know what's being voted on and when.

HB 1369 would remove that requirement. If this bill passes, a Special Town Meeting could be scheduled and held with little to no public awareness. Important decisions could be made before most residents even knew a meeting was happening.

The NH Planners Association is again strongly opposed to this bill as well, calling the bill a threat to public participation and local accountability.

What's Really at Stake is Individually, each bill

weakens public notice. Together, they form a pattern - a slow, quiet shift toward less transparency and less public involvement.

And once public notices are gone, the public's voice goes with it.

These bills may sound technical, but their impact is real:

- A zoning appeal could reshape your neighborhood without you knowing.

- A Special Town Meeting could approve spending or zoning changes without public input.

- Decisions that affect your taxes, your property, and your community could happen behind closed doors.

New Hampshire's Right to Know laws exist for a reason: to keep government

open, honest, and accountable. HB 1181 FN and HB 1369 move us in the wrong direction.

Here's why residents should be paying attention to these bills: public notice is what tells us when to get involved. Without it, people don't know when a meeting is happening, when a vote is coming, or when a committee is about to take up something important. These proposals may not draw crowds or make headlines, but they absolutely deserve both.

Public notice isn't a formality - it's the community's warning bell. It's how people know when to show up, when to speak up, and when their government is about to make a decision that affects them. Take away that notice, and you take away the public's seat at the table.

## Around Town

Continued from page 13

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

### Explorers Storytime

On Fridays at 1:30 p.m., the Rodgers Library will have

songs, stories, bubbles and a craft or activity for children ages 3-5 and their caregivers.

### Adventurers Storytime

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

### Teen Hangout

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

### 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.

### Baby Lapsit and Playtime

On Thursdays come to the Rodgers 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 if you have any questions.

### 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.

### 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)



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