

THE Hudson Times

November 16, 2023 ♦ Volume 1 – Issue 3

A FREE Weekly Publication



VETS HONORED

Students at Nottingham West Elementary School lined the halls on Thursday morning, Nov. 9, to pay tribute to members of the community who served in the military with a “Veterans Day Reverse Parade.” See more photos on pages 8 and 9. *Photos by Chris Paul*

School Street Lot Struggle to Meet Zoning Requirements

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Zoning Board of Adjustment oversaw a variance request from Craig Parks for his property on 41 School Street at the Zoning Board’s last October meeting. The request would split a 20,332 sq. ft. lot into two separate lots.

“If the variance is granted, this application process

will be a modest single-family dwelling, which consists of the other houses immediately in the neighborhood,” Parks explained in his presentation to the board.

The current lot already has a two-story home, and the requested division would allow Parks to build a second house in the same area. He confirmed that the

new lot would require an address change, and most of the 41 School Street property is currently empty.

While the Zoning Board agreed that a variance would not seriously impact the neighborhood, the main issue was the requirement of unnecessary hardship, something needed for any variance in Hudson.

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Hudson to Purchase New Voting Machines for 2024

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

Hudson Administrator, Steve Malizia, warned officials that 2024 would require a slightly larger investment from the town to ensure a smooth electoral process. At the Tuesday, Nov. 7, Budget Committee meeting.

“There will be the state primary, the state general election, and then the town meeting, so there’s three elections next year in two locations,” warned Malizia. “It’s a substantial increase, new tabulator machines add \$52,000 right there.”

Current voting machines are considered outdated, and the Town Moderator written budget request

included a request to replace the tabulating machines before the 2024 election season, which will start early next year. Parts are also scarce, and maintaining old machines has become increasingly difficult, while paper jams have been an increasingly common occurrence over the past few years. The budget will also include a temporary increase in town police detail to oversee election security. The Budget Committee requested the Town Moderator to attend the Thursday, Nov. 9, meeting to answer additional questions.

The NH Secretary of State has already approved two types of voting

machines for local purchase. At the moment, Hudson has five tabulator units and needs to rent one more for each election to keep up with voter demand. The upcoming budget request includes the purchase of eight new units.

“Integrity in the election is important, and new tabulators I think will ensure that,” said Malizia.

Budget Committee member, Kathy Leary, also requested new poll pads to streamline the voter registration process.

“In the last elections, we’ve had one poll pad per each supervisor table for voter registration, and on the big elections, they want

continued on page 2

School Board Review Proposed Policy Changes

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

During the Nov. 6 School Board meeting, the School Board had several first readings regarding policy changes.

One of the policies was in regards to when students can enter the school, which states, “The policy of the Hudson School Board is to admit students to first grade whose sixth birthday occurs on or before September 30, in accordance with RSA 193:1 Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil:

A parent/guardian of any child at least 6 years of age and under 18 years of age shall cause such child to

attend the public school to which the child is assigned in the child’s resident district. Such a child shall attend full time when such school is in session.”

Superintendent, Daniel Moulis, said the proposed changes were in regards to waiver requests saying before all requests went to the School Board, now they would be handled at the administrative level, and if parents aren’t satisfied with the decision then an appeal could be made to the School Board.

Another policy is related to restraint, seclusion, and intentional physical contact policy, which has a policy statement that states

“It is the policy of the Hudson School District that restraint of a child/student shall only be used in a school to ensure the immediate physical safety of persons when there is a substantial and imminent risk of serious bodily harm to the child or others. It shall be used only by trained personnel using extreme caution when all other interventions have failed or have been deemed inappropriate. Restraint shall never be used explicitly or implicitly as punishment for the behavior of a child. (RSA 126-U:5). Seclusion also may not be used as a form of punishment or discipline.”

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School Board Approve Winter Sports Coaches Hirings

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The School Board heard a presentation from Hudson Memorial School Librarian, Beth Sloat, and Hills Garrison Elementary School Librarian, Amy Chartrain,

about the annual AASL National Conference during the Nov. 6 meeting.

Sloat explained that they recently attended the biannual conference in Tampa Florida, where over 2,000 librarians from around the

country were in attendance. Some of the sessions Sloat said she attended included AI in schools, Chat GPT, and a session on copyright. She explained that it was an important session because there have been school dis-

tricts sued over it, so she wants to be able to provide teachers with quick answers when needed and receive a reference book on the topic. Chartrain said she attended a session on coding in the library and developing a K-5 vertical curriculum, something that has been discussed in the past. She also attended a session on social and emotional learning. "It was really a phenomenal experience," Chartrain said.

Also during the meeting, the School Board approved several nominations for different winter sports teams.

For varsity girls' basketball, the district named Frank Girginis as coach and Jay Thomas as JV coach. For the boys' team, Leo Gershgorin was named as the varsity coach, Christian Patenaude was named as JV coach, and Tom Hanson was named as the freshmen team coach.

Tom Daigle was hired

as the varsity boys' track team coach and Jeff Peterson was named as the girls' team coach. The assistant girls' coach will be Danielle Vallee and the assistant coach for the boys' team will be Phil Demers. The varsity boys' hockey coach will be Dave Thibeault and the assistant coach will be Thomas Beaulieu.

For the varsity cheerleading team, Colleen Gillis was named as head coach and Colleen Jessica Siefert was named assistant coach. Jessica Toomey was named as the unified team coach, Colleen Vurgaropoulos was named as the varsity swim team coach and Xen Vurgaropoulos was named assistant coach. Derek Peabody was named as the dive team coach. Christopher Dejesus was named as the varsity wrestling coach with Conor Gannon named as the assistant coach.

Kathleen Murphy was also named as the girls' bas-

ketball coach for Hudson Memorial School.

The School Board also heard a request for out of state travel for Athletic Director, Karen Bonney, to be able to attend the National Athletic Directors Conference, which is being held this year in Orlando, Florida. "I have not been able to attend the conference for several years for personal reasons, but now I can go," she wrote in a letter. "I would like to take advantage of the courses along with the workshops. It is also beneficial to network with not only NH athletic directors, but athletic directors from other states. I have budgeted for athletic director travel within my transportation budget and would pay for the trip out of that account."

The estimated total cost is \$2,125, which was approved by the School Board.

Voting

Continued from page 1

us to use the poll pads because it makes tabulations easier at the end of the night," said Leary. "Voters fill out the paper form to register, use the poll pad to get their little slip to actually vote, and it was a huge component in the long lines of people waiting to get to the one poll pad."

The bill for aid for the town's under privileged will be higher next year due to the sunseting of federal COVID-assistance laws.

According to Malizia, "We have to provide at least the first line of assistance"

for the town's under privileged, including utility assistance in certain cases.

Vice Chair, Bill Cole, proposed cutting the Hudson legal budget by \$8,000 after learning that the Board of Selectmen has kept the town attorney on a no-bid contract for the past eight years due in part to a level hourly rate.

"I would like to go to bed thinking that my tax bill is not supporting a no-bid contract, year in, year out here in Hudson for legal services," said Cole. "No-bid contracts will destroy you in a heartbeat, we're already seeing that in some other areas of our town finances."

Committee member, Shawn Jasper, noted that cutting the legal budget would not have much practical effect as the town is obliged to pay any legal bills that might come up. Jasper also argued that it could send the "wrong message" and drive away the town attorney.

No decision was made on the proposed cut, and the Budget Committee pledged to take up the matter again by the Dec. 6 meeting. There are many budget committee meetings over the next few weeks. Nov. 9, 15, and 29, Dec. 6 and 7, according to the town's website.

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Budget Committee Get First Preliminary Proposal From Selectmen

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Budget Committee pressed forward with preparing a comprehensive town budget at their second November meeting. The Board of Selectmen finalized their draft earlier in the month, with a draft ready for the Budget Committee.

Town Administrator, Steve Malizia, gave the first official presentation to the Committee.

"This is for the fiscal year '25 budget, which runs from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Seems like it's pretty far away, but it

will be on us before we know it," said Malizia.

The Board of Selectmen asked department heads to submit "level funded" operating budgets "exclusive of labor and benefit costs" while focusing on funding deemed essential to the board's operation. The general fund operating budget sent to the Committee was \$35,527,448, the sewer fund operating budget sent was \$2,426,706, and the water fund operating budget sent was \$4,371,665. The final tax rate has not yet been set.

Additional funding targets in the proposed budget

include training a fire captain officer, continued funding of seven existing capital reserves, establishing a new capital reserve fund for drainage, a high-way feasibility study, and additional funding for paving across Hudson.

"What's not included yet are two labor contracts we are negotiating. We've basically wrapped up public works, and we're still negotiating a fire union contract," Malizia added. "We anticipate having that for this Committee at some point in time."

Non-tax revenue like

Hudson's share of money from vehicle registrations and other things created what Malizia called "a pretty strong" fund balance expected to keep the tax rate steady.

Most of the more extensive warrant articles have not yet been presented and are still under discussion.

Budget Committee Vice Chairman, Bob Cole, asked for clarification on what was meant by level funding to a proposal around \$2 million higher than the 2024 budget.

"I'm confused, the term level funding or zero fund-

ing to someone such as myself means we're not going to spend any more money," said Cole. "Yet we have these outside the budget funds, or procurements, that we have every year."

While there were some spending increases, they were not considered part of the core budget.

"What the department heads were told, is their regular budget come in at level funded, zero increase. There are going to be some line items such as gas that went up," Selectmen Liaison, David Morin, clarified. "There will be some lines

that are a little more money than they were last year, but the budget itself that they do day-to-day operations is as close to zero as possible, and the other stuff is needs and wants that aren't included in the regular budget."

Several "outside" budget items were marked as essential needs for the town, with new drains to reduce flooding, was given as an example.

According to the town's website, there are many budget committee meetings over the next few weeks, Nov. 9, Nov. 15, Nov. 29th, Dec. 6, and Dec. 7.

Zoning

continued from page 1

"I don't see hardship on the property as it currently exists, there's plenty of use of the property. The only reason why there seems to be a hardship now is that you want to subdivide," said board member, Norm Martin. "In my mind, it doesn't meet the criteria for the variance, there's no hardship on the property."

Parks' main issue was the frontage between the street and the building. He claimed that keeping the subdivided property compliant with town zoning laws was possible without the variance, but would necessarily include an awkward design that would be inconsistent with other homes in the area.

Nancy O'Neil Molnar

of nearby 13 Second Street was at the meeting with questions about the size and style of the newly proposed house.

"How many bedrooms? How many bathrooms? And what style house is going to be put there to blend in with the neighborhood," asked Molnar. "That whole neighborhood dates at least back to 1945. I would like to know what style of house is going in and how big."

She was worried that a larger-than-normal, modernized School Street might look out of place.

Parks confirmed his design was "consistent with the neighborhood," while the Zoning Board reminded Molnar that the structure was covered by the Planning Board, and asked that any other questions be restricted to land use.

Nobody spoke directly for or against the application.

"The hardship criteria are definitely the hardest to pass, I'm having a tough time wrapping my head around this passing the hardship criteria," said Alternate Board member, Tristan Dion, referring again to the standards every variance application must meet. "It's hard for me to pass this and say that it's fine."

As many older houses in the area predated modern zoning laws, the board was sympathetic to the application, but ultimately voted to deny the variance on legal grounds.

The Hudson Zoning Board will have its last meeting of 2023 on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Community Development Conference Room.



HAPPY 90TH

Pat Vachon, a resident of Laurel Place in Hudson, recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Ms. Vachon has seven children, six sons and one daughter. Her family had a wonderful birthday celebration and surrounded her for photo.

Courtesy photo

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Editorial

Something To Be Said About a Smile

World Kindness Week started on November 13th, a week that promotes the importance of being kind to each other. This understanding creates compassion for others, it has the power to bridge those gaps between our differences. Kindness is to have good intentions, warmth, compassion and love for someone.

The people who bother me the most are the ones who seem to think the world owes them something just because, with the ideology that they are the “chosen ones”. As I always say there are many sides to a story. In this world we are greatly separated from one another either by political divide, social status, you name it. Being kind can bring people of all view points together, if you are willing to listen of course.

Go anywhere, you can find a bench to just sit and watch, as less and less people seem to care about the person next to them. Very few seem to even think that the other person might be going through the same things they are or worse. It seems like reaching out a hand to help anyone is becoming art.

Being kind to a person isn't difficult. Being kind isn't a sign of weakness. Rather, being kind is probably just the opposite. Being kind to your neighbor, your friend, your family members, or a complete stranger shows more strength than anything else.

Though it would be amazing if that

golden rule of, “Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you” would make a come back, it seems to have been forgotten.

It takes courage to step out from the shadows of everyone else and do something different. It takes strength to see the world from another person's point of view and find that common ground, finding a solution to the issue not just fan the flames, that notorious middle ground.

Wouldn't it be nice if complete strangers greeted you with a smile or just said hello, it isn't a grand gesture, it didn't take anytime out of their day, still, that act of kindness has set the tone for how that person's whole day or even week went.

During this Holiday season and throughout the year, and throughout the rest of your life, be kind, it might just become contagious. Be kind to the environment by recycling what you can. Take time out of your day to play with your pet a little longer than you normally would and give them a treat when you're done. Be kind to yourself as well, it's okay, people should take the time they need to take care of themselves.

Most of all be, be thankful for what you have when so many have less. “Do things for people not because of who they are or what they do in return, but because of who you are.” – Harold S. Kushner.



Letters

Thanks to Hudson Fire

To the editor

Once more the wind is blowing and the Acorn Agitators are raining leaves like chipmunks and squirrels. For everyones information according to an old Farmers Almanac (rare copy) that's more intense than cats and dogs who don't even live in trees. So with rake and umbrella again I will adventure forth to locate what's under the deluge of accumulated brown.

Don't own a hard hat so have to use an umbrella for safety in case the oak trees are still shedding acorns as well as leaves. If I had a hard hat though, I would take it off in a salute gesture to the HFD for handing out

light sticks in our neighborhood to all the trick or treaters and their chaperones. So again many thanks to the HFD for making this Halloween and Fall extra colorful and bright.

Jim Crowley
Hudson

How to Subscribe Online?

To the editor,

We want to say how glad we are that Hudson again has a written print publication

reporting the happenings in our town. The excitement and appreciation expressed by everyone that has received and read the Hudson Times you are pub-

lishing for us is overwhelming. That being said, we have a request.

Could you please add to your email address and other contact information as listed on Page 4 the URL with instructions on “How to subscribe online.”

It would be very helpful to have the correct way to get the online copy with a simple set of directions. This would most likely increase your readership and get more folks reading the weekly newsletter.

Once again, we are so happy to now have this weekly publication and so want it to continue to come into our homes.

Kathy and Steve Martinek
Hudson

THE Hudson Times

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St. Kathryn Holds 29th annual Christmas Bazaar & Penny Sale



Members of the St. Kathryn Church held their 29th annual Christmas Bazaar and Penny Sale over the weekend with tons of activities, gift baskets, raffle items, and food for attendees to enjoy. Countless holiday raffle items lined the hall for folks to take a chance on. Santa also stopped in to the event periodically, pictured on page 4, to give families a chance to take photos with the children. There were also hand-made items for sale, as well as a bake sale taking place.

Photos by Chris Paul

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RC Club at Planned Solar Farm Has a Storied History

CODY WOJCIK
SUBMISSION

Hudson residents may have read about the proposed solar farm in the November 2023 Hudson Town Crier, however what wasn't mentioned is the Southern New Hampshire RC Club, a non-profit organization that practices and promotes radio controlled aviation at the top of the capped landfill where the solar farm would be installed. If the installation goes through as proposed, it will most likely mean the end of the historic club. SNHRCC was incorporated in 1957 and has made the West Road landfill their home for 23 years. Since 2000, many residents from Hudson and surrounding towns have enjoyed flying model aircraft with their friends and families at the site that the club has named "Wagner Field," in honor of the field's late founder, Darrell Wagner. The club

includes people from all ages and walks of life including students, engineers, and airline pilots.

Pilots at SNHRCC fly model airplanes, gliders, and helicopters ranging from 2 ounces to 25 pounds in weight, powered by small engines, electric motors, or the wind. Members don't typically fly drones, but all flying machines are welcome. The Southern New Hampshire RC Club has worked with FAA officials and the Nashua airport to attain a letter of agreement allowing them to fly up to 1500 feet in altitude. Additionally, it is registered as an FAA-Recognized Identification area, meaning it is formally recognized by the FAA as a model flying site. In the time since the RC club has started flying there, it has been the practice field of multiple national RC glider competitors and the first and second place competitors at the 2014 Interna-

tional Miniature Aerobatic Club World Championship. It has also been a testing location for multiple RC airplane designs that have gone on to become commercially available, and it is a filming site for the media company Tailheavy Productions. It can continue to be a site for mentoring future radio control and full scale aviators

The RC club did significant work filling and leveling the top of the landfill cap to make it flat enough for their use when they started flying there. Solar farms are most profitable when installed on flat ground, and while 60% of the proposed solar farm installation would be at the flat area near the base of the landfill, the remaining 40% would be at the flat cap that the RC club currently uses. SNHRCC has also built and installed two shelters, a storage shed for their landscaping equipment, work-



benches and picnic tables, a solar-powered charging station for RC batteries, fencing, and a parking area. The 26 West Road landfill is a perfect location for the RC club since it is surrounded mostly by heavy industry (Continental Paving) and swamp, meaning that any noise generated by the RC aircraft does not bother any-

body in the surrounding area. The club specifically does not fly during Saturday mornings out of consideration for Hudson residents going to the transfer station.

In late 2019, the town Administrator's office approached the RC club with a formalized use agreement for the site.

However, during the pandemic it was delayed, and the town did not complete the signature process. The prospect of finding another flying site would be nearly impossible for the club, and there would certainly never be another one with the qualities and memories of Wagner field.

School Policies

Continued from page 1

Moulis said there were "some significant legislative changes to the law," and

they had a complete policy rewrite.

The proposed policy statement would be, "This

policy is designed to help ensure the safety and dignity of all students by limiting and regulating the use of restraint and seclusion only as crisis or emergency responses. Restraint and seclusion of students is prohibited in the district except as described below."

The School Board also had a first reading for a new proposed policy related to ACN Nursing Mothers Accommodations. "This is a new policy for the board

to review for first review this evening," Moulis told the School Board.

The policy statement of purpose reads: "The district provides a supportive environment as to time and place for students and employees (collectively "nursing mothers"). Subject to the terms and exceptions set forth in this policy, the district will accommodate the needs of nursing mothers by providing reasonable times and suitable spaces

for nursing mothers to nurse during school and work hours for one year after the birth of the child. Nursing for purposes of this policy will include expression of milk by manual or mechanical means.

No nursing mother will be discriminated against for nursing or nursing related activities as provided in this policy, and reasonable efforts will be made to assist nursing mothers in meeting their infant feeding goals

while at work or school."

The School Board approved the first readings for all the proposed policies heard during the meeting. The next School Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 20. If you would like to see the policies and proposed changes in detail you can go to the School Board Agendas and minutes section of the School District website www.sau81.org.

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Hudson Lions Deliver Halloween Surprise Apple Pies



Pies being delivered to the Rodgers Memorial Library.

Courtesy photos



Lions members brought pies to the staff at Hudson Town Hall.

At the Hudson Lions Club's recent meeting, members assembled 46 apple pies at The White Birch Function Hall for dis-

tribution to several town departments to show their appreciation for their services. Each department expressed their gratitude.

The following day the pies were baked by Josh Bouley and Lions member, Barbara Bouley, at the White Birch. Several

members of the club then met at the White Birch to package the pies for delivery.

Heading up the deliver-

ies were Past District Governor, Gary Rodgers, and Club President, Kimberlee Fournier, assisted by club members Barbara Bouley,

Past Club President, Linda Hedrick, Pam Lalmond, Past District Governor, Roger Latulippe, and Mairlyn Vaccaro.

Hudson Fish and Game Offer Thanksgiving Meals

The Hudson Fish and Game Club, Inc. (HFGC), on 53 Pine Road, Hudson, has been providing a Thanksgiving meal with all the fixings for over 40-years to those less fortunate in our communities. We first started out as a gathering for those that had no place to go, and grew into what the club is providing today. We have only missed one year in the 40+ years doing this event.

On Thanksgiving Eve, the hall is filled with volunteers helping to prep the food by peeling, chopping, cutting up vegetables and getting everything ready for the club members that volunteer their time to cook the entree for delivery. Once this is completed, on Thanksgiving Day, the food

is portioned and packaged, and delivered at no cost to those less fortunate and want to have a Thanksgiving meal for Thanksgiving. There were many years the club provided over 1500-1700 meals, until the last 4 years in which we are now providing up to 600 meals to individuals. There is no charge to anyone receiving a meal. Our guidelines are one meal per person living in the household. Not guests or additional family coming to visit for Thanksgiving Dinner. That is not our mission. Any remaining food is donated to the Nashua Soup Kitchen. The club does not keep any of it. We also serve at the club a meal for anyone that comes buy on Thanksgiving Day. The meal starts at 11:30am.

We serve New Hampshire towns of Hudson, Nashua, Pelham, Litchfield, and Tyngsborough, MA. Our major bulk deliveries is in Nashua. Alvirne High School students of the Culinary Arts program bake pies for this event at cost, which is 75-150 pies. Food donations are given to us from the local farms. Some of the cost is for picking up some food. Other is the cost of the products necessary to make this event be packaged and sent out. This year the cost is estimated at \$7,000 - \$8,000.00 due to the cost of food and product prices that have risen tremendously this year. Cash donations received are low this year, so the club is doing it's best to pay for the items out of

their own pocket. Which will be about \$6,500.00. This is strictly a separate item on our budget in which all cash donations are placed in this account to pay for Thanksgiving only. Nothing goes into the club unless it is reimbursement for purchases for this event.

Last year the volunteer count was at 151 that assisted us with making this event happen. This does not include the 45+ members that volunteer as well.

Many are return volunteers that have put many years into assisting us. We couldn't do this without the volunteers.

If you would like to volunteer go to: 2023 Thanksgiving Volunteer Sign Up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4EA8AC2CA6F58-45758536-hudson>

Or call Paul at 603-606-8911 and leave a message, and he will get back to you to sign up.

Anyone that wishes to

make a cash donation can be made out to Hudson Fish and Game Club, INC and in the Remarks on the check place 2023 Thanksgiving Event, and mail it to Russel Caminiti, Treasurer, Hudson Fish and Game Club, INC, 53 Pine Road, Hudson, NH 03051.

At this time HFGC is all set for the turkeys to provide the dinners needed for our recipients.



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Students Praise Area Veterans with a Reverse Parade



Students at Nottingham West Elementary School lined the halls on Thursday morning, Nov. 9, to pay tribute to some of those who served their country. Although the “Veterans Day Reverse Parade” was suppose to be held outdoors, rain on Thursday kept the event inside. All the town’s veterans were invited and students cheered, waved flags, and showed off signs they had made in appreciation of those that serve and have served in the military.

Photos by Chris Paul

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HUDSON SPORTS

Hudson-Litchfield Bears Hold Huntoon Bowl Games



Action of 9U and 10U teams battling at Memorial School. *Photos by Chris Paul*

BLAKE SANTANA
HUDSON TIMES

For the second consecutive year, the Hudson-Litchfield Bears hosted the annual Veterans/Gavin Huntoon Bowl Games at Hudson Memorial School on Sunday, Nov. 12. A total of eight games were played throughout the morning.

On what turned out to be a great day for football, despite the chilly start, the 6U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, and 13U teams split their squads and played either 5-on-5 or 7-on-7 flag football, depending on the number of players available, as well as a group of about 20 coaches who put on a spectacle during the final, 1 p.m. window.

During the event, there was not only excellent flag football being played, but the cheerleaders from all age groups were combining to practice their routines, as well as a pair of 50/50 raffles, concessions, and a raffle to determine who won the custom pair of Air Jordans, which were donated by Kelly Huntoon, who is the mother of the late Gavin Huntoon, the namesake of Sunday's fundraiser. All of it culminated with the fan-favorite coach pie in the face.

The day began at 9 a.m. with the 6U and 8U bowls. Those games resembled more of a true football feel, minus the tackling aspect. Everyone played the whole

time. 20-minute halves and a five-minute break for halftime. Nobody was keeping track of score, but both games seemed pretty evenly matched, and everyone enjoyed themselves, despite the slick conditions from the frost on the grass surface.

After a brief break to get the teams off the fields and the new groups on, the 9U and 10U teams kicked off at just a couple of minutes past 10:15 a.m., and those games were equally fun for the players, though much higher scoring. Despite the fact that none of the games were officially scored, there is no doubt that the 9s and 10s scored

continued on page 11



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Alvirne Honor Athletes in Fall Athletic Awards Ceremony

BLAKE SANTANA
HUDSON TIMES

As we near the Thanksgiving break for schools, it was time to honor the Fall athletes for the Alvirne Broncos as the Alvirne athletic department hosted their tri-annual awards night.

All-in-all, a total of eight teams were honored that evening, as awards were presented for girls' volleyball, boys' and girls' soccer, boys' and girls' cross country, cheer/spirit, and golf, with the football team holding off their awards until their Dec. 8 Varsity Football Banquet.

The night began with cross country awards, starting with the girls' team and then moving to the boys' team. For the girls, the first award given was the "Most Improved", which went to Chase Wherry. The second award was for the "Rookie of the Year", which was awarded to Lillian Schultz. The final award for the

girls' team was the Coaches' Award, which also served as their MVR, or Most Valuable Runner, award. That went to Sophia Berube, who served as Alvirne's assistant captain this season.

Then, we moved to the boys' side, with the boys having a similar award slate. They started with their Rookie of the Year, which went to Ashton Rowe. They followed that up with the Coaches' Award, which was given to Ryder Watermaker. Then it was onto the MVR Award, which Brent Dunning took home.

From there, it was on to the girls' team. The Coaches' Award went to senior midfielder, Kayda Chan. They then gave out the Iron Woman Award to Bri Peters, who played through numerous injuries throughout the course of the season. The team then chose, in lieu of an MVP award, a co-MVP award, which went to

both Sadie Rogers and Annaleisa Rivera.

For the golf team, starting out with their Coaches' Award, which was given to senior golfer, Dylan Page. They then proceeded to surprise the audience with a new award, dubbed the Doug Robinson Character and Community Award, which was given to fellow senior, Trent Scarbro. The final award presented was the Scholar Athlete Award, which Logan Casey won.

The girls' volleyball team began with their Offensive Player of the Year, or OPOY, which was awarded to Diana McElhinney, she led the team in service aces and was second in both digs and kills for the Broncos. They then moved on to Defensive Player of the Year, or DPOY, and Petrina Ofori won that award. The final award for volleyball was their MVP, which went to Cienna Clay.

The boys' soccer team started with their MVP



Award winning Alvirne athletes pose with their plaques.

award. Matt Branco took home the honors after leading the 5-9-2 Broncos in goals this season. From there it was the Iron Man Award, which James Dlubac took home. Their Coaches' Award, which is called the HART Award, HART being an acronym for the Heart Ambition Respect and Teamwork, which went to Aiden Flaherty.

The last set of awards to be presented was the

cheer/spirit team. The first award they handed out was the Bronco Award, which was presented to the member of the cheerleading team who showed the Broncos' core values of Community, Curiosity, Character, and Teamwork. That award went to Mayah Davio. The Leadership award was given to team captain Miley Auger. The final award of the night was the Cheer

Coaches' Award, which was given to Abigail Labonte.

Football coach, Matt Lee, did speak to the Bronco crowd about their season, which was the best season in Alvirne history, that ended with the first .500 or better record for the Broncos in Division I. They did not present any awards, as those will go out at the Varsity Banquet on Dec. 8.

Huntoon

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far more than the 6U and 8U teams, which is to be expected, but there was a very high amount of scoring for such short spans of time, especially with the clock constantly winding, rather than stopping frequently as we normally see in football.

Once that window wrapped up, there was a

pause in the football action to honor any veterans that were in attendance. Some nice words were said and the crowd gave a big hand in honor of those who have served our nation in the military.

The afternoon portion of games kicked off just a few minutes before the 12 o'clock hour as field 1 was moved from directly next to field two, down the hill and between the HMS baseball and softball fields. These

games were the 11U and 12U games, of which both were extremely exciting. While 12U did not keep any sort of official score, 11U unofficially ended at 35-28 in favor of the silver team. Teams in the age groups 9U and up were divided into silver and navy teams, with the silver team being designated as away and navy being the home team.

Once we reached the final window of games, it

was time for the 13U team to take to field 2 with the highly anticipated Coaches' Bowl taking place over on field 1. The 13U game was highly competitive with everyone playing hard and enjoying their 40 minutes on the field, while also taking a few peeks down at the coaches from the younger levels who were putting on a show down the hill.

The coaches battled continued on page 12



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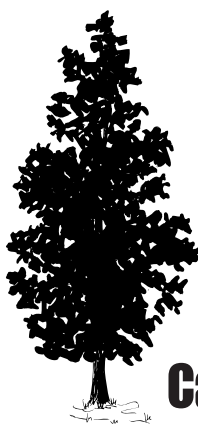
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Alvirne Team Take Second at National Veterinary Event

Members of the Alvirne FFA's Veterinary Science team were able to place second in national event, that featured 46 teams from across the country.

This is the second consecutive year that a Alvirne FFA's Veterinary Science team placed in the top four in the country. This year's team was made up of four individuals of the Alvirne program. Ava Kozinski, Victoria Rackliff, Autumn Shank, and Kloey Zink of Alvirne FFA, NH, were on the team that placed second. Autumn Shank also placed seventh in an Individual competition.

Advisor's Jen Beaudry and Corie Bliss had this to say; "We are so proud of these amazing young women for the many hours spent preparing for this national competition that started back in January of

this year. They put their heart and soul into this career development event, and it certainly paid off with a second-place win in the country! This year's national convention theme was "EVOLVE", and we are certain that these students have what it takes to evolve and be next generation of leaders who are going to change the world."

The National FFA Veterinary Science CDE is a competitive event that tests the participant's ability to apply veterinary science knowledge and skill in practical settings as well as identify breeds, parasites and equipment. Participants also complete a written exam and respond to scenario questions about current topics in the veterinary industry. Teams present to a panel of judges about the roles and responsibilities of

the veterinary team in a variety of situations involving patients from companion animal to large animal. Teams competed at local and state levels for the privilege of representing their state at the National FFA Convention & Expo.

The national event was held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, is one of many educational activities at the national convention in which FFA members apply classroom knowledge to real-life.

About National FFA Organization

The National FFA Organization is a school-based national youth leadership development organization of more than 945,000 student members as part of 9,163 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career suc-



Vet Science Team with Advisors, from left, Advisor Jen Beaudry, Autumn Shank, Kloey Zink, Vicky Rackliff, Ava Kozinski, Advisor Corie Bliss

cess through agricultural education.

FFA is the largest of the organizations in U.S. career and technical student schools.

Huntoon continued from page 11

throughout their game, firing deep pass after deep pass and really showing off their arm strengths. The most impressive part of this one though, had to be the fact that not a single coach wound up getting injured enough to show any sort of pain, even while a lot of them hit the ground trying to catch the football.

Chris Reilly, and Ethan Dudley, were toying with defenses the entire game, firing deep pass after deep pass and really showing off their arm strengths. The most impressive part of this one though, had to be the fact that not a single coach wound up getting injured enough to show any sort of pain, even while a lot of them hit the ground trying to catch the football.

When all of the football festivities were wrapped up,

it was time to pick who would get the pie to the face. This was determined by which coach received the most donations in his name, and this was the biggest blowout of the night. Earning \$172, 13U head coach, Richie Sperazzo, took home the honor, as he beat out the entire rest of the field \$172-\$72. All-in-all, between this, the 50/50 raffles, and the Air Jordans raffle, the Bears raised well over \$600 on Sunday afternoon.

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Tree Lighting

Santa's Coming, Join the fun on Friday, Nov. 24, for Santa's Arrival as he visits the Hudson Town Common at 4 p.m. for the Tree Lighting then the Hudson Fire Department will transport Santa to the Hudson Community Center at 12 Lions Avenue, Hudson for a Photo with Santa and Fun Kids Activities until 6 p.m. Donate new winter hats, mittens or gloves for children. Donation box at hall.

Hanukkah Menorah Lighting

This year Chanukah begins on Thursday, Dec. 7, and ends on Thursday, Dec. 14. Visit <https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/hanukkah> for a brief explanation of this holiday.

Join at Etz Hayim Synagogue as they commemorate the victory of the Maccabees. On Friday, Dec. 8, Etz Hayim Synagogue will host a Second Night Chanukah menorah lighting, with pizza dinner and Family Shabbat Service. Pizza dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., (RSVP is required - email Rabbi@etzhayim.org to reserve your space). At 6:30 p.m., they will light their giant outdoor menorah and sing Chanukah melodies led by Rabbi Levy and Amy. Indoor menorah lighting and Family Shabbat service follows at 7:15 p.m. BYO menorah and 3 candles as we brighten the winter night. Etz Hayim Synagogue is located at 1 1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH. Visit us at www.etzhayim.org, or call 603-432-0004.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Join Etz Hayim Synagogue for an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, Nov. 21, at 7:15 p.m. Etz Hayim Synagogue and the Church of the Transfiguration not only share an interfaith campus but also work together on many activities. These include Elijah's Table and Interfaith Trips to Israel. One of the major events of this collaboration is the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. The site and sermon alternate between the two. This year Rabbi Peter Levy will lead the service at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1 1/2 Hood Rd., Derry, and Reverend Ray Bonin will deliver the sermon. This service is of

continued on page 15



Class Act performers Ash Dolan and Nya Morgan are pictured during a recent rehearsal. *Courtesy photo*

CLASS ACT The Alvirne High School Theater Group, Class Act, will be performing John Ciarani's play Almost, Maine this coming Friday and Saturday evenings starting at 6:30 p.m. on the Alvirne High School Gym Stage. The cast and crew have been rehearsing for months for these nine short vignettes that focus on hope, loss, friendship, and love. Directors and Alvirne High Teachers, Jennifer LaFrance and Julie Nelson, will take the audience on a magical trip to the mythical town of Almost, Maine where anything can happen as long as you believe in the power of the human heart. Tickets are \$5 for Students and \$8 for Adults. Online tickets can be purchased at Ludus.com - Alvirne High School.

Courtesy photo

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Around Town

Continued from page 13

particular significance as these two spiritual leaders will soon be retiring. There will be light refreshments after the service.

Drop In Stitchers

On Friday, Nov. 17, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29, from 9:15 - 11:15 a.m., in the Community Room of Rodgers Memorial Library. If you're starting a new skill or brushing up on an old one or even if you just like to sit and chat while pretending to work, this is a judgment free zone. Bring in that pair of socks you started in 1986 - you can finish them here. Make a new craft and some new friends.

Adventurers Storytime, Stone Soup

On Tuesday, Nov. 28, Dec. 5, & 12 from 10 - 10:45 a.m. in the Community room of Rodgers Memorial Library. Join Ms. Tanya for stories, songs, games, and activities, for ages 3-5. Please bring one food item to add to the library's Stone Soup. Let the library know what you are bringing and please bring it prepared to go into the soup (peeled, chopped, etc). Children should be able to sit through a story. Siblings welcome. Registration required. Please indicate the number in your party when you register including adults and infants.

Intermediate Knitting Class

Registration required. Seating is limited to 10 participants only. On Friday, Nov. 17, Dec. 1, & 8, from 10 - 11:30 a.m. in the Reading Area of Rodgers Memorial Library. Do you know how to knit and purl? How to cast on? Then you're ready to learn about knitting socks! Learn the basics of knitting a sock in this 4-week class. Please bring one (1) set of five (5) double-pointed knitting needles, wooden needles, not aluminum, size 4 (3.5 mm), no longer than 6" long.

Genealogy Club

On Friday, Nov. 17, from 1:30 - 3 p.m., in the Commu-

nity Room of Rodgers Memorial Library. Community and church cookbooks are treasures that give a glimpse of female groups, encapsulated in a place and time. Besides providing delicious treats, these recipe books can also be a springboard to genealogical adventure. Join Erin looking over recipes for Ghorabie, Pacific Slope Punch, and Maple Creams in search of clues to unlock the stories of female ancestors. Participants will receive a few choice vintage recipes as well as a "recipe" for research planning.

Tween Snack Bonanza

On Friday, Nov. 17, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., in the Community Room of Rodgers Memorial Library. Tweens in grades 4-7 are invited to make and taste some after school snacks: fruit smoothies, rice crispy monsters, and a cheese ball. Please let staff know ahead of time if you have any food allergies.

Mystery Lover's Book Club

On Monday, Nov. 20, Dec. 18, & Jan. 22, from 1 - 2:30 p.m. in the Children's Programming Room of Rodgers Memorial Library. If you are looking for a book group where everyone joins in with the conversation and opinions are welcome, this is the place for you. Come and give it a try. This month's book pick is *The Maid* by Nita Prose.

Afternoon Book Group

On Tuesday, Nov. 21, & Dec. 19, from 1:30 - 3 p.m., in the Community Room of Rodgers Memorial Library. This group will discuss *The man who invented Christmas: how Charles Dickens's A Christmas carol rescued his career and revived our holiday spirits* by Les Standiford.

Seeking Donations

Meals on Wheels Holiday Gift Program is seeking donations by Dec. 1, they are looking for; \$10 Gift Cards to Local Grocery Stores, Pharmacies, Dollar General, Pre-packaged Cookies & Fruit Snacks, Forever Stamps &

Stationery, and Monetary Donations (to purchase items). Checks payable to Meals on Wheels & mailed to: PO Box 910, Merrimack, NH 03054. Items may be dropped off at our Admin Office located at 395 DW Hwy, Merrimack, or at any site location 603-424-9967 hcmow.org Please help fill gift bags for the participants of the home delivered program.

Rotary Club Meeting

The Hudson Rotary Club will meet at the Rodgers Memorial Library on Thursday, Dec. 14 from 7:30 - 9 a.m., in the Community Room

Democrats Meeting

The Hudson Democrats will have a general meeting at the Rodgers Memorial Library on Thursday, Dec. 14 from 7 - 8:45 p.m., in the Community Room.

Coiled Baskets

This program will meet in the Community Room of the Rodgers Memorial Library. This first class will be sharing space with Borderline Spinners. Signing up registers for all four weeks of classes Tuesdays in Nov. 21, & 28, from 5:30 - 7 p.m., All materials provided. Registration is limited, so sign up now!

Movers & Shakers

Toddler Storytime for kids that don't sit still for long. Songs, stories, games, and activities for ages 1-3. On Wednesdays Nov. 29, Dec 6 & 13 from 10 - 10:30 a.m., and from 10:30 - 11 a.m., in the Community Room at Rodgers Memorial Library. Registration is required. Please indicate how many will attend including adults, infants, and siblings. Caretaker participates with child or children.

Songs & Snuggles

On Thursday's Nov. 30, Dec. 7 & 14 from 10 - 10:30 a.m., in the Children's Programming Room of the Rodgers Memorial Library. For babies age birth to 18 months and their caregivers. Enjoy time together with other caregivers and their

SpongeBob Musical Set for Nov. 17



Kids Coop Theatre is kicking off its 27th Season with a large cast of area children performing "The SpongeBob Musical," starting on Friday night, Nov. 17. The popular television program will be brought to the stage of the historic Derry Opera House, Derry, this weekend.

The Musical will be performed on Friday, Nov. 17, and Saturday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m., and on Sunday, Nov. 19, at 1 p.m. at the Derry Opera House, 29 West Broadway, Derry. All tickets are reserved seating, and are \$15 when purchased in advance at www.kidscooptheatre.ludus.com, or, \$20 at the door.

Photos by Chris Paul

babies as we learn, play, and develop language and motor skills. Registration required. Please let staff know how many people are in your party, including your baby.

Dino the Therapy Dog

Come meet Dino, the therapy dog at Rodgers

Memorial Library. Dino is a St. Bernard who loves to be pet on the Library Lawn. On Tuesdays, Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5, 19, & 26 from 2:30 - 3 p.m.

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