

THE Hudson Times

May 14, 2026 ♦ Volume 4 – Issue 19

A FREE Weekly Publication



Open House

After over a year of renovations, Alvirne Trustees are inviting the public to an Open House at the completed Alvirne Chapel on Sunday, May 17. According to group's Facebook page, tours and refreshments will begin at 1 p.m. The Chapel is located at 200 Derry Road, Hudson.

Photo by Chris Paul

Sustainability Committee Looks to Expand Private Renewable Use

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The April meeting of the Hudson Sustainability Advisory Committee centered on expanding renewable energy opportunities for residents, with members exploring new partnerships,

state programs, and community collaborations aimed at making small-scale solar more accessible. The discussion reflected the Committee's ongoing effort to support residents interested in clean energy while strengthening ties with regional organizations and

local schools.

Committee member Kate Messner provided an update on Simplify Solar, an initiative led by the Third Act organization. The program is designed to streamline the permitting process for homeowners who want to

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Board of Selectmen Choose Emily Leclerc as Town Clerk

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Town of Hudson will soon have a new Town Clerk following a unanimous vote by the Board of Selectmen during the non-public portion of its most recent meeting. The appointment fills a vacancy created earlier this spring and sets the stage for new leadership in one of the town's most visible and essential administrative roles.

The position opened after former Town Clerk Michelle Brewster was hired in March for the newly created Human Resources Generalist position. Brewster had been serving as Town Clerk at the time of her appointment, prompting the Town to advertise for an

interim replacement. Town Clerk duties

According to minutes from the April 28 non-public session, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to appoint Emily Leclerc as Hudson's next Town Clerk at a starting annual salary of \$54,921, contingent upon successful completion of all pre-employment requirements. The minutes also clarify that the Town Clerk is ordinarily an elected position. Leclerc's appointment will continue until the next election on March 9, 2027, at which time she will need to run for the office if she wishes to retain it.

In other business, the Board reviewed a request from the Hudson Police

Department to accept a donation connected to the department's EBike program. Police Chief David Cayot explained that in 2025, the department received a \$5,000 donation from Janie Freedom to support the launch of the program.

The funds were used to purchase a Recon Interceptor Power Bike, along with emergency equipment and police bags. Cayot noted that Freedom later purchased four Trek Quantum Wave-Cel helmets, valued at \$539.96, to ensure officers had the recommended safety gear for EBike patrols. Police EBike programs

The Board of Selectmen **continued on page 11**

Questions Raised Over Error Found in School Audit Report

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Budget Committee met on May 6 to hear an update from School Board Liaison Dan Kilgour, who provided new information regarding a recently released audit report for SAU 81. The report, now available on the district website, outlines generally strong financial practices but also reveals a significant error involving tax revenue calculations.

Kilgour emphasized that the audit was largely positive.

"The audit report has been shared with the Budget Committee and is available on the district website if you go to the search bar and type in 'audit,'" Kilgour

said. "Overall, the audit report went well. The district has strong audit results. The district continues to implement processes focused on student activity fund management. Recently streamlined forms and documentation for staff are good, and staff are regularly receiving training in these areas."

Tax revenue error discovered the audit also included a letter from Superintendent Dan Moulis, who explained that the district's beginning net position had to be corrected due to an error involving the FY2024 tax assessment revenue.

According to Moulis: "Approved warrant articles involving the use of fund balance had been applied

twice within the payment request calculations. As a result, the district requested and received less tax revenue from the town than was authorized and collected."

The mistake was discovered during the 2026 fiscal year by Business Administrator Jenny Graves, who identified inconsistencies in the assessment schedule. Budget Committee seeks clarification the revelation prompted confusion among Budget Committee members, who questioned how the error occurred and why it went unnoticed for so long.

Committee member Shawn Jasper expressed frustration.

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School Board Approves Revised Middle School Credit Policy

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

At the most recent School Board meeting, an agenda item was in regards to a final vote on a proposed revised policy for high school credit for middle school courses.

The policy reviewed was labeled IMBD High School Credit for Middle School Courses, a policy that has been under discussion for several months as the district continues to expand competency based learning opportunities and align expectations across grade levels.

The new revised policy states that "Students in 7th or 8th grade may take advanced courses and, upon achieving the competencies consistent with graduation, can apply the credit of those

courses toward high school graduation. In order to count for high school credit, the course must include content standards and competency requirements consistent with the related high school courses or competencies, and the student must achieve satisfactory standards of performance. School Board policies relative to assessment, mastery, and competency shall apply."

The revised language formalizes a practice that has been used informally in some departments, where advanced middle school students have been able to move ahead in coursework. The new policy ensures consistency across the district and clarifies expectations for families.

It explains as part of the

revised policy that "This policy allows and supports middle school students so they can take advanced coursework for high school credit. It was not designed to increase the number of students applying for early graduation in high school." District officials emphasized that the intent is academic enrichment, not acceleration out of the system.

As part of the revised policy, it explains that there is sign off required in advance.

"The Dean of Academics or his/her designee shall approve such coursework and credit prior to the student enrolling in the class for such credit to be applied toward high school graduation," the revised policy states. This ensures

that students, parents, and teachers understand expectations before the course begins and prevents confusion later in a student's high school career.

A question raised at the previous meeting by the Board was if students would be able to earn credits online or if the coursework must be taken in school.

Hudson Superintendent Dan Moulis explained previously that the courses must be taken through the school district in order to ensure they meet high school level competencies and standards before credit can be awarded. He noted that while online learning can be valuable, the district must be able to verify rigor and alignment.

The School Board unan-

imously approved the revised policy during the meeting, with several members noting that the update brings Hudson in line with practices in-use in many New Hampshire districts.

In other news during the meeting, the Board was presented with a proposal for a travel request for Skills-USA, the national career and technical student organization that hosts competitions in dozens of skilled trades and technical fields.

"Pending Hudson School Board future review for the Skills-USA National Competition in Atlanta, I would like to nominate the following staff for supervising the student participants: Matt Somers: Construction; Josh Bennett: Welding; Colin Stone: Engineering. The

national competition stipend is \$500 each," Alvirne High School Principal Steve Beals wrote in a memo to the School Board.

The School Board unanimously approved the request, noting that Alvirne's CTE programs have a long history of sending students to the national competition.

Also during the board meeting, the School Board was presented with a nomination for Alvirne High School.

The nomination request was for Assistant Tennis Coach Erik Hagen during the spring season.

The School Board unanimously approved the nomination during the meeting, filling a needed coaching role for the remainder of the season.

Committee Cashes in Old Holiday Lights with New Recycling Partner

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Sustainability Advisory Committee met on April 27 and announced success in securing a new partner to process old holiday lights, a breakthrough after last year's challenges.

Chair Karl Huber explained that the Committee connected with Harding Metals Inc. after a recommendation from Casella's

Tony Belanger.

"Harding Metals was a company we were informed of by Casella's Tony Belanger, and basically, we worked with Harding as a closure to the recycling light program," Huber said.

The Committee had struggled last season to find a vendor capable of handling string lights, raising concerns about whether the program could continue. Harding Metals not only

accepts the material but pays the Town for it.

"We dropped off our inventory, and they paid something like 25 cents per pound for whatever they collect in," Huber noted.

He thanked Committee members Craig and Deb Putnam for helping secure the partnership, which ensures the Holiday Light Recycling Program can continue.

Huber added that big-

box stores had become unreliable partners.

"We used to talk to Lowe's, we used to talk to Home Depot, but what happened was that each individual store said yes or no. We had more 'no' than we had 'yes,'" he said.

The value in the lights comes from the copper wiring, which most residents don't strip out themselves. With Harding Metals now on board, the Committee has a reliable way to collect and properly recycle lights, and generate a small revenue stream for the Town.

Committee Eyes New Goals: Energy Benchmarks and Efficiency with renewed confidence in the Holiday Lights Program, the Committee shifted its discussion to potential new initiatives, including establishing energy and fuel consumption benchmarks for the Town.

Committee member Bob Larson emphasized the importance of understanding the Town's current usage.

"If we developed an accurate benchmark of where the Town is at this time, it'll direct us down the road where some of our efforts can save money," Larson said. "We're interested in the dollars, but we're also interested in the CO2 emissions."

Larson noted that only preliminary research has been done so far on electricity, natural gas, and heating oil costs. He also suggested coordinating with the Hudson School District to align goals and efficiency upgrades.

Committee member Kate Messner agreed that the data exists and can be compiled.

"All that information about electrical load and cost is going to be there,"

she said.

State Incentives and Historic Buildings Committee member Jake Keller highlighted significant state incentives available for municipal energy improvements.

"Up north, they're paying upwards of 90% of the costs for better insulating buildings and things like that," Keller said. "There are incentives I've never seen before being done on huge town projects like DPW buildings, fire departments, town halls, all of them. If it's municipal, it qualifies."

Selectman Liaison Heidi Jakoby added that historic buildings may also qualify for funding.

"Everybody keep your ears out for things with historic buildings," she said. "We have other buildings that aren't necessarily always used."



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Central Street Sign Wins ZBA Permission to Install LED Conversion

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

A Nashua business owner received approval from the Hudson Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) on April 23 to replace an existing sign with a new LED display at a non-conforming building on Central Street, following a discussion that highlighted both the Town's sign regulations and the challenges applicants face when navigating them.

Applicant Farrukh Chaudhry explained that he had already ordered and paid for the LED sign after what he believed was confirmation from the Zoning Department that the upgrade would be allowed. Only after the sign was manufactured did he learn that a

variance was required because the building itself is non-conforming.

"We are basically requesting that an existing sign be changed to an LED sign. Apparently, there are some ordinances in place that refrain from that happening," Chaudhry said. "There was some sort of miscommunication... We placed the order about two to three months ago, and then we were told there was a variance we needed to request. It was kind of late, we already paid for it, it's already manufactured, it's already on its way."

Hudson's zoning rules require a variance for any new or replacement sign on a non-conforming property, regardless of whether the

sign is similar in size or type. While the applicant did not fault Town staff, the situation underscored how easily misunderstandings can occur when multiple departments or contractors are involved.

Chaudhry emphasized that the new sign would not be overly flashy or disruptive. Instead, it would be used to display basic business information, sales, and pricing.

"Our request is merely so this business can better serve the town folks," he said. "We are just going to have a two-sided sign that's going to advertise whatever we have going with sales or prices."

Board questions focus on brightness, display fre-

quency, and compliance board member Tim Lanphear asked for clarification on whether the sign would be internally lit or fully programmable, noting that Hudson has specific rules governing electronic and changeable signs.

Chaudhry explained that the business has internally lit signage and that the LED panel would replace one of the existing signs. The new sign would be programmable but used in a simple, controlled manner.

Associate Planner Ben Witham-Gradert provided additional context, explaining that Hudson's zoning ordinance includes a full section dedicated to electronic signs, with rules on brightness, transitions, and

how frequently the display can change.

He added that technical specifications submitted by the applicant showed the sign can comply with the ordinance.

"If it doesn't, that'd be because they chose for it not to," he noted, emphasizing that compliance is ultimately a matter of how the sign is programmed.

Lanphear also raised concerns about nighttime brightness and whether the sign would remain illuminated after business hours.

Chaudhry responded that the sign includes sensors that automatically dim the display at night or during cloudy weather. He also confirmed that the sign would be turned off when

the business is closed, addressing concerns about light pollution and neighborhood impact.

The Zoning Board approves the variance after reviewing the application and hearing the applicant's explanations, agreeing that the request met the criteria for a variance. Members noted that the sign would not significantly alter the character of the area and that the applicant had demonstrated a willingness to comply with all technical requirements.

The Board voted to approve the variance, allowing the LED sign to be installed once the applicant completes the remaining permitting steps.

School Board Approves FFA Request, Briefed on Finances

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

An agenda item during a recent Hudson School Board meeting was in regards to a proposal for FFA students to attend the FFA National Convention.

"We are requesting school board permission to attend the FFA National Convention in October 2026," Alvirne High School FFA advisors wrote in a memo to the School Board.

It was explained in the memo to the School Board that they had several students who finished first at the State level.

"We are proud to announce that our Veterinary Science and Floriculture Teams placed FIRST in the state at the NH State FFA Convention," the memo stated. "These impressive placings grant our students the opportunity to represent the

Palmer CTE Center at Alvirne High School and the State of NH at the 99th Annual FFA National Convention in Indianapolis from Oct. 21-Oct. 24."

It's noted that the costs include airfare, hotel, and competition registration.

"The cost per student is typically between \$600-\$800 due to a variety of fundraisers that have already begun," the memo noted.

As part of the proposal, it stated that four Veterinary Science students would be attending and four Floriculture students would also be attending, along with three advisors and chaperones.

"We are requesting three advisors attend because of the two separate teams competing," the memo explained. "The Floriculture team will be chaperoned by their advisor, Mrs. Hill, while the Veterinary Science team

will be led by Mrs. Bliss, who is training Mrs. Graham (first year Veterinary Science Team Advisor)."

The Board unanimously approved the proposal during the meeting.

Also during the meeting, the School Board was provided a financial report as of March 31 as part of the correspondences.

As part of the report, the preliminary available funds - which include excess revenue and unspent expenditures - are expected to be \$2,010,981 at the end of the fiscal year, which ends on June 30.

The total anticipated accessible fund balance is expected to be \$2,010,981.

It was also noted as part of the report that the restricted FY25 Fund Balance retained is a total of \$1,305,479, meaning that the total FY26 Fund Bal-

ance would be a total of \$3,316,460.

The Board was also provided a review of the finances for the different school accounts across the district. The update offered a snapshot of student activity funds, which support clubs, athletics, field trips, and other school based programs.

As of March 31, the

school activity account for Alvirne High School was at \$196,059.91.

For Hudson Memorial School, the school activity account ended at \$70,015 as of March 31.

Dr. H.O. Smith had a balance of \$3,279.67.

The total for Hills Garrison Elementary was at \$38,133.62, and the total for

Nottingham West Elementary School was at \$32,304.94.

These balances fluctuate throughout the year as fundraising, student fees, and activity expenses are processed, and the Board noted the accounts appeared to be in stable condition heading into the final months of the school year.

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Editorial

The Value of Clear Process

I think we forget that good government isn't just about the vote. It's about how we get there, and if you've ever sat through a meeting where the process felt rushed or confusing, you know exactly what I mean. A clear, steady process is what keeps a town running. It's what helps people trust that decisions are being made fairly, even when they don't love the outcome.

When the policy and the process are solid, people can follow along. They understand the steps. They know what's coming next. But when the process is fuzzy, or changes depending on who's in the room, frustration fills the space where trust should be, and lately, both towns have had moments where the process itself caused more concern than the decision.

Strong process and policies protects everyone taxpayers, employees, volunteers, boards, and the town as a whole. It keeps things fair. It prevents misunderstandings. It avoids the appearance of favoritism, corruption, or anything that even looks like it, and honestly, it saves us from repeating the same problems year after year.

Here's the part we don't talk about enough: most of the issues we keep tripping over aren't new. They're the same old problems that pop up when we drift away from the policies and procedures we already have. These aren't meant to sit in a binder and get dusted off occasionally. They're supposed to guide how we work, how we communicate, and how decisions move from point A to

point B.

Could some of them use an update? Absolutely. But even the best policies don't mean anything if we don't use them. When we actually follow the procedures we already have that outline who does what, how information is shared, and what steps come first things run smoother. People know what to expect, boards stay in their lanes, staff has clarity, and residents can see the logic behind the decisions being made.

Clear process means more than checking boxes. It means policies are written, not floating around in someone's memory. Outreach is intentional, not "well, we posted it online." Data is explained not waved around like a magic wand, all necessary because people and laws change.

When we skip steps, we create problems that didn't need to exist. When we follow a consistent process, we build trust, without it, every decision becomes harder, every debate becomes louder, and every misunderstanding becomes a controversy.

Our towns are growing. Issues are more complicated than they used to be. That means our processes need to grow with us. It's time to tighten the gaps, clean up the old habits, and make sure every decision big or small is grounded in clarity and fairness.

It's what keeps decisions fair, keeps boards accountable, and keeps residents confident that their town is being run with integrity, and right now, that's exactly what we need to move forward.

Words Are Hard

KYLE SURPRENANT
SUBMISSION

To Owen: I love you so much and will always love you, your name will not be forgotten.

Friday February 20th 2026, a normal day for the whole world. A day that everyone wakes up and looks at the sun and grogs out of bed to go to work, or school. But normal days for everyone are impossible. February 20th is a day I will never be able to forget. The day of my worst nightmares put me into thirty minutes of hell, and following that months and years of pain. Morning sucks and evenings are unbearable. School is a prison of thoughts for my head turning like a gerbil on a spinning wheel making me see his old teachers that loved him and his friends that looked up to him. Knowing that seeing me hurts them. Knowing that no matter what I do now, I'm honoring him and his life that was cut short at the age of 19 years old. Now I am living with the pain that I was stripped of my brother, friend, mentor, and teacher in a short amount of time.

February 20th 5:13 am waking up to my brother complaining of his pain, but that's to be expected after surgery, right? This is not the first night he just needed meds. Moms got him as I tried to go back to sleep for forty minutes but still listened to make sure everything was okay. Wondering if they need help.

5:32 my eyes wide open listening to the commotion downstairs that feels irregular and then the sudden scream "MY BABY, MY BABY" screamed louder than the house's walls and me rushing downstairs to help, walking down to my mom panicked and froze

and my only brother hunched over the couch staring over his own puddle of blood clots and blood reaching to the bathroom five feet away from where he was sitting. Him in pain and me immediately trying to help. Running to grab towels to clear the floor for the ambulance. Trying to get clothes together and not having enough time because the ambulance was already there. Seeing the lights flashing down my driveway clearing a clear path so they can get my brother out as quickly as possible and answering their questions about Owen. Me staring at the pile of blood, watching my brother twitch, seeing him in pain. Feeling helpless and feeling useless. Knowing that my mom is getting on the ambulance and I will be alone.

Alone, alone with a pile of disinfectant wipes and a handful of anxiety while they rush him to the hospital. And seeing my dad rush inside from work quickly grabbing clothes that would never be worn. Me, standing there alone over his blood trying to figure out what's going on. Cleaning it up, getting on my hands and knees with his blood on my hands thinking he will be okay. Thinking that they have this under control. Cleaning it up alone trying to calm my heart rate. Wishing this was all a dream wishing that my brother didn't have all these problems. Wondering if he is okay, and a billion memories of me and him flowing through my head. Memories of me and Owen playing with legos growing up and going paintballing, memories of us at the dinner table laughing as a family. Then rushing to grab my phone that's ringing from across the room.

Getting a text from my

dad. "We need you to bring Owen shoes. I think we are moving him to Boston". Knowing if he is going to Boston he is not in good condition. Cold shooting down my spine not knowing which shoes to grab, so I slide on my black fuzzy crocks and bring him my wide running shoes so he has both options as I run out the door. Getting into the car and getting this uneasy feeling in my stomach of not knowing, driving to the hospital and hoping everything is okay. Pulling up to the hospital, navigating the ER alone, finding the waiting room right away. Waiting what felt like a decade to get called in, staring at my brother's blood on my arms from cleaning it with disinfectant wipes. Watching ticktocks on my phone thinking I'm going to be called in to my brother being stable. Thinking that the doctors are going to fix him.

A nurse called my name in the family affairs room with that look. The look of not knowing what to do or say, the look of someone that has to tell someone the worst news in the world. The look that gave it away. As I walked into the room with a sinking feeling in my chest seeing my parents walking in the other door of the room simultaneously and seeing my dad holding my mom and both in tears. My parents shake their heads as I break down. Learning that the human body can cry without making a sound. That your body can go in a state of paralysis and my muscles tensing up and my body sneezing uncontrollably in the chair crying without a sound. Only able to rock back and forward looking around the room while the nurses get

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Words

Continued from page 4

me ice to cool me down my body profusely crying through every pore. The doctor told me they did chest compressions on him for an hour straight and then I found out he was gone. From those words my life changed. One sentence changed everything. My way of life, my way of thinking ,my career path, everything. My only brother, gone. Stripped away from me because of a mishap in his recovery from surgery. M.A.L.S. Owen was diagnosed with mals about one year ago where the median arcuate ligament compresses the celiac artery and surrounding nerves, causing abdominal pain and digestive issues. Issues nobody wants to deal with. I watched my brother battle with unexplained weight loss, coughing uncontrollably, and visual discomfort at times. Then the surgery on February 9th 2026 happened and the doctors thought it was a success. We all did, until we were in the hospital having to say our goodbyes. The hospital was quiet as I sat there with the people I hold closest to me - my cousin, my mother, my father, my aunt, and my uncle. And in the room next to us is my brother. As we

go to say our goodbyes after the doctors cleaned him up walking in seeing him laying there with his hands by his side. And a dry streak of blood across his face. His body laying there and his presence surrounding us with memories and emotions. Listening to the sounds of the neighboring rooms with beeps and signs of life with their loved ones. Owen's room is quiet, with no machines hooked up, but still the loudest room filled with noisiest thoughts. My mothers words whispering " it's us three we are all we got" as tears roll down their faces faster than rain fall. Looking at my brother noticing all the things we will miss out on.

Never being able to see him get married, have kids ,or get his first full time job. Me not being able to take his kids for ice cream and getting yelled at by him because he didn't want them having sugar. Never getting to go out for a drink with him after a bad day. Or finishing out plans to go to concerts. These thoughts are all rushing through my head and me finally realizing that I want to listen to one last song with him. Knowing the artist that he would want.

Zach Bryan, I remember everything three minutes and thirtyseven seconds of peace, one song freeing me

from my emotions and letting me feel with him one more time. The artist that me and him bonded over in his last months. As I listen to this song holding his cold hand and facing my mother across the other side of the bed on his other shoulder in shambles, listening to the lyrics. My parents were crying not knowing what to do. Whispering to him that Fred is in good hands. Feeling lost and alone fighting every second not to have an anxiety attack. My last time seeing my brother alive, that morning over his own blood.

10:45 my eyes are burning and my nose is raw. My head is pounding trying to walk away from my brother, my day one. Someone I thought I was promised to grow old with is now leaving him cold in the hospital as I get to go home. I never thought that a car ride could be so quiet with no wind, no AC or music. The muffled engine and the sound of the tires treading through the little bit of snow and sand on the ground. Pulling up to my house, noticing some of my extended family already there. Stepping out of the car and feeling my legs like jello knowing I'm going to have to see where I cleaned his blood up. Me breaking down on his dog. My last promise, Owen's last gift to me, Fred.

Walking in the house with my eyes magnified with tears. Looking at my aunts and uncles with tears in their eyes in the kitchen and my Nana crying on the other side of the house. Moving my body slowly past the bathroom and couch of which everything happened in that morning. Feeling the uneasy feeling knowing I will have to walk up the stairs every night and walk past his room and know he is never coming home. As I slowly moved towards my nana's door in tears reaching in for a hug knowing she has now not only lost a son but now a grandson too. Now looking around noticing all the broken hearts and shattered minds. With no words being spoken, and the quiet house where you can hear a dozen people's tears hitting the ground, words are hard.

Then a quiet green Subaru pulls into the driveway knowing it's my brother and his mom pulling in. Sean,

my last brother, not by blood but by bond, Owen's best friend. As Sean walks into the house with tears already rolling down his face and seeing the emotions pouring down the eyes of him and my mother knowing we need each other. As I go in for a hug, losing all control of any restraint from crying breaking down in each other's arms, knowing we loved him so much. And knowing that he loved us. Seeing the pain I'm feeling reflected in his eyes and wishing we were all standing here together.

Standing in my kitchen with my family, important people to me. Aunts, Uncles, parents, grandparents, and most important Sean. Trying to figure out where we go but in moments like these this is not just one path, there is only reality. Looking at the pizza my uncle brought over with tissues over the island counter and heads

looking down. Looking over at the table and seeing my mother with her head down sitting at the kitchen table knowing I can comfort her and her looking at my fragile frame and saying my hands feel like his. Realizing I now take on a role of keeping Owen alive through me. As my mom holds my hand tightly but gently and as I hug her through all of our pain I realize the unfortunate truth that this will be the hardest thing us three will have to get through.

Family, family is something a lot of people take for granted because they are always there for you. Until they are not. Every minute, every moment, every hour is a new memory and those memories dictate the next ones. Every time we ignore what's right in front of us you miss out on what's there for you to enjoy. Life is always going to be waves but how you ride the wave is totally up to you.



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School Board Reviews Potential Fund Balance Purchases

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

During the old business portion of the most recent School Board meeting, an agenda item was in regards to end of the year fund balance purchase requests.

It was explained by Hudson Business Administrator Jenny Graves that they generally have extra funds available at the end of the year, which is known as Fund Balance.

“The Hudson School District traditionally does not spend every dollar of general fund appropriations,” Graves explained in a memo to the School Board. “This residual amount leftover is known as ‘Fund Balance’ and is calculated as of its

availability on June 30th each year.”

Graves noted the timing of the fiscal year plays a major role in how the district can use these funds. Authorized spending for each fiscal year begins on July 1, meaning the School Board must follow a specific annual cycle when determining how Fund Balance can be assigned.

“The School Board has authority via the following annual cycle to authorize spending from the Fund Balance:

1. Annual Budget Cycle [Warrant Article ‘Ballot’ Placement]: This phase has been completed.

2. Assigned Fund Balance: This is where we are

at today.

3. Unassigned Fund Balance Retained per RSA 198:4 b: This will be reviewed in August 2026, to finalize our required Department of Education (DOE 25) and Department of Revenue (MS 25) reporting. After the cycle above completes, the remaining ‘Unassigned Fund Balance’ is used to offset the tax rate that is set annually in October by the Department of Revenue.”

Graves reminded the Board that several warrant articles approved by voters in March specifically called for certain projects to be funded entirely or partially through end of year Fund Balance.

Those include:

- \$135,000 HMS Window Replacement (Phase 8 of 11)
- \$180,000 AHS Fire Alarm Panel Replacement
- \$125,000 HMS Science Lab Renovation (Phase 4 of 4)
- \$62,000 District Wide HVAC Vehicle
- \$50,000 Capital Reserve School Renovation Fund
- \$100,000 Alvirne Farm Capital Reserve Fund
- \$652,000 Total Authorized Appropriation from Fund Balance (MS 22R)

In addition to the voter approved items, Graves said the district also has a variety of other projects and needs - many of which were removed from the final budget proposal sent to voters - that administrators

hope to complete using remaining Fund Balance.

Those items, which were assigned a priority order, totaled \$255,000 in requests. They include:

- Repairing damaged loading dock & stairs (joint loss issue) at Nottingham West for an estimated cost of \$12,000.
- Replacing HVAC condensers and air handlers in the SAU for an estimated cost of \$39,000.
- Renovating the culinary arts classroom at Hudson Memorial School for an estimated cost of \$38,000.
- Installing new flooring in the café and guidance hallway at Alvirne High School for an estimated \$43,500.
- Replacing cafeteria

and hallway flooring at Hills Garrison for an estimated cost of \$25,000.

- First floor hallway flooring at Nottingham West for an estimated \$15,000.
 - Art room renovation at Nottingham West for an estimated \$30,000.
 - Replacing the band room floor at Alvirne High School for an estimated \$26,000.
 - Replacing stage lighting at Hudson Memorial for an estimated \$27,000.
- Graves emphasized these priorities reflect both safety needs and long term maintenance concerns. Several of the flooring and HVAC items, she noted, have been deferred for multiple years due to budget constraints.

Belknap Extension Moves Forward with Approval of Right of Way Purchases

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Planning Board met on April 22 to receive an update on the long anticipated Lowell/Birch/Belknap extension project, a roadway improvement effort that has been in development for several years. Director of Development Services Elvis Dhima briefed the Board on the latest progress, reporting that negotiations to acquire the necessary right of way land from nearby property owners were moving forward smoothly.

“The town has been working with the owners on

both sides and they’ve been great to work with,” Dhima explained. “We’ve agreed on a purchase, we have a sales agreement, we have an agreement related to the permanent and temporary work and the easements related to them. To execute those transactions, we need a deed book and page, which is basically what this is. I’m respectfully asking the Planning Board tonight to authorize the Chair of the Planning Board to sign this so we can get it recorded tomorrow and get the right of way needed to get this thing done.”

The Belknap extension has been discussed for years as a key infrastructure improvement for Hudson. Once complete, the project will extend Belknap Road and connect it directly to Lowell Road through a new four-way intersection at Birch Street. Town officials and residents have viewed the extension as a way to relieve congestion, improve traffic flow, and address safety concerns in an area that has become increasingly difficult for drivers and pedestrians to navigate. Complaints about the current intersection and sur-

rounding roads have been frequent at public meetings, making this project a priority for many.

Board member James Crowley expressed support for the project but noted that some of the paperwork provided to the Board appeared incomplete. “I think it’s a very good thing,” he said. “My only problem was that some of the paperwork looked unclear. I don’t see a place on the plan that I was supplied with where the Chair can sign it.”

Dhima apologized for the oversight and assured the Board that the issue could be corrected quickly. He offered to add a signature box and thanked the Board for its cooperation and willingness to keep the

project moving.

At the suggestion of Board member Todd Boyer, the Planning Board voted unanimously to authorize the Chair to sign the necessary documents once the signature block was added. The motion passed with little debate.

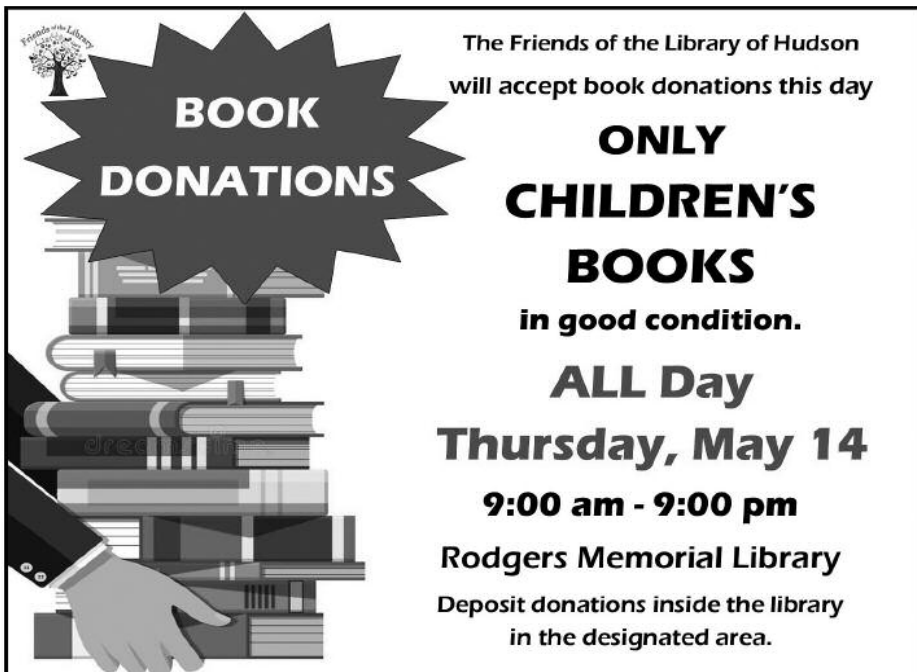
Following the right of way discussion, the Board turned to its annual officer elections, which had been postponed earlier in the meeting. The Board’s leadership slate for the upcoming year mirrors the previous year’s structure. Incumbent Chair Tim Malley was re-nominated without opposition, continuing his role for another term. Although he was not present at the meeting, incumbent Vice-

Chair Jordan Ulrey had submitted a letter indicating his willingness to continue serving, and he was formally nominated again.

“Seeing as Mr. Ulrey did propose in a letter saying that he would accept the position of Vice-Chair, I do nominate Mr. Ulrey for Vice-Chair once again,” said Boyer.

Crowley briefly raised the idea of considering another candidate for Vice-Chair, but no one volunteered, and Ulrey was unanimously re-elected. The same pattern followed for the position of Secretary, with Tim Lyko unanimously chosen to continue in the role alongside Malley and Ulrey.

The three officers will serve until April 2027.



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BOS Approves Signs for Benson Park Volunteer Recruitment

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Board of Selectmen recently approved a request from the Benson Park Advisory Committee to purchase new volunteer recruitment signs, continuing an effort that committee members say has already proven successful in boosting community involvement at the popular town park.

The request came in the form of a memo from Advisory Committee Vice Chair Susan Clement, who explained that the group hopes to replicate last year's

strong turnout by placing two signs at the park's entrance gates.

"We used similar signs last year and saw a significant impact, doubling our volunteer participation," Clement wrote to Town Administrator Roy Sorenson. "We would like to repeat this effort to continue building volunteer support."

Clement noted that the Advisory Committee had already voted to move forward with the purchase but needed formal approval from the Board of Selectmen before spending the funds. She added that the

signs would be ordered through VistaPrint, which she said offered a more cost effective option than other vendors. The total cost for both signs is \$173.40.

During the meeting, Sorenson described the request as straightforward and well within the committee's means.

"They will use funding from their budget, which they have available," he said, pointing out that the committee had \$245 remaining in its operating budget as of March 31. Sorenson also emphasized that the signs had a measur-

able impact last year, helping the committee attract the volunteers needed to maintain and improve the park.

"They had success with putting up these banners last year," Sorenson said. "It certainly helps them do what they need to do to keep fences up and running and keep it a community gem."

Selectmen expressed support for the effort, noting that Benson Park relies heavily on volunteers for cleanup days, trail maintenance, and general upkeep. Selectman Dillon Dumont

praised the inclusion of a QR code on the signs, saying it makes the process easier for residents.

"The QR code's always a good idea," Dumont said. "It makes it nice and simple for people."

Selectman Heidi Jakoby added that the QR code links directly to volunteer signups for scheduled cleanup events. She explained that the Friends of Benson Park, a nonprofit partner, currently manages the QR code and the volunteer coordination behind it.

"There is a hope in the future that the cleanup

events will come back to the municipality," Jakoby said. "So that's one way in which a nonprofit works closely with the Advisory Committee, both of whom are necessary in this case."

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to authorize the purchase, allowing the Advisory Committee to move forward with its spring volunteer recruitment efforts. With warmer weather approaching, officials said the timing is ideal to encourage residents to get involved in maintaining one of Hudson's most visited public spaces.

Selectmen Provided Insight About CALEA Accreditation

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Police Department recently earned its eighth CALEA Accreditation, this time with the distinguished Meritorious designation.

At a recent Board of Selectmen meeting, officials were briefed on what the accomplishment means following a March trip to Tucson, Arizona, where the award was presented.

Hudson Police Chief David Cayot explained that CALEA stands for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

"It's the gold standard in public safety," Cayot said. "It provides law enforcement agencies with the best

practices of what you should be doing as a law enforcement agency."

He joked that CALEA has been around since 1979 and is "the same age" as he is.

Cayot noted that CALEA offers two levels of accreditation.

"There's LE1 and Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation," he said. "We're Advanced. LE1 is 185 standards, but the Advanced level has 461 standards that we comply with."

Some standards do not apply to Hudson, he added.

Cayot explained that the CALEA process, once a three-year cycle, is now a four-year continuous process.

"For the first three years, we do an online

review with a compliance service member, or CSM," he said. "They'll pick approximately 80 to 100 standards and review them online to make sure we're complying. If they have questions, they reach out and we answer them."

Sometimes, he said, the CSM may ask the department to adjust a policy or explain why a procedure is done a certain way.

"When you get to the fourth year, you have your final online review with the CSM," Cayot said. "Then it moves into an onsite review where an assessor comes out for about three days, asks questions, views the facility, and interviews a

ton of people."

More than 40 interviews were conducted during Hudson's assessment.

"He then writes up a report that he submits to the Commission," Cayot said. The Commission reviews the findings before the final hearing.

"When we went out to Tucson, we sat in front of the committee and they could ask us questions," he said. "They were very nice to us during the review hearing."

Cayot said the committee did not ask many questions, mostly out of curiosity about the department.

"Town Administrator Sorenson said some very

kind words," Cayot added. "They gave him the opportunity to speak, and he did a great job speaking about the Police Department and the Town as a whole. Then the Commissioners make a recommendation, and their recommendation was for us to receive our CALEA award."

Cayot noted that 18 departments in New Hampshire are CALEA accredited.

"To give you some numbers, there are approximately 1,021 accredited agencies in the United States," he

said. "Only a few hold the Advanced level accreditation, which is the most prestigious and rigorous standard set by CALEA." He added that there are roughly 18,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide.

Selectman Xen Vurgaropulos praised the department for its achievement.

"The work you guys do, and the fact that we've held this accreditation for so long and been meritorious, couldn't be more proud, to be honest with you," he said.



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Sustainability

Continued from page 1

Committee member install solar panels, reducing confusion and helping residents navigate the steps more efficiently.

“It’s to contact the people who do the permitting and let them know about this,” Messner explained. “It’s a way to make getting solar panels easier for the person who wants to get them, and it’s a way to make permitting solar panels easier for the people doing the permitting.”

Third Act’s programs, including Simplify Solar, place a particular emphasis on helping Americans over age 60 adopt renewable energy technologies. While the initiative focuses on educating local officials, the ultimate beneficiaries are residents seeking to reduce energy costs and transition to cleaner power.

Jake Keller asked whether the program was intended for private homeowners rather than municipal buildings. Messner confirmed that the end users are residents, though the program also supports the officials who process solar permits.

Messner noted that Hudson’s permitting process is already relatively efficient compared to other communities.

“Permitting in town isn’t that bad,” she said, adding that officials must turn solar permits around within 30 days. “If you have all of your ducks in a row, it should go very smoothly.”

Committee Chair Karl Huber said the group frequently receives information about renewable programs and sees its role as helping educate both resi-

dents and town officials.

“We get a lot of this coming into the committee,” Huber said. “It’s about educating the community, educating town officials. We get a lot of this coming in when we do our surveys.”

Committee strengthens regional connections the Committee also discussed its ongoing collaboration with Clean Energy New Hampshire (CENH), a statewide organization that provides resources, policy updates, and training opportunities for municipalities working on energy efficiency and renewable energy goals.

“We do belong to that organization, and we’ve talked with Sarah Brock, who is the Director of that program,” Huber said. “She keeps us updated on policy changes, various different websites, and conferences that are available for us to

attend. It’s a good organization for us to stay connected to. It’s just a good conduit.”

Messner added that Brock remains in regular contact with the Committee, keeping Hudson informed about legislative activity and state-level initiatives.

“CENH works very hard,” Messner said. “They also do a lot with the state.”

Committee members also discussed the possibility of aligning local efforts with state incentive programs that support municipal energy upgrades. Keller noted that some northern communities have received substantial financial support for insulation and efficiency improvements.

“Up north, they’re paying upwards of 90% of the costs of improvement for better insulating buildings and things like that,” Keller said. “There are incentives

that I’ve never seen before that are being done on huge town projects like DPW buildings, fire departments, town halls, all of them. If it’s municipal, it qualifies.”

Selectman Liaison Heidi Jakoby encouraged the Committee to keep an eye out for grants that could support upgrades to historic buildings as well.

“Everybody keep your ears out for things with historic buildings,” she said. “We have other buildings that aren’t necessarily always used.”

Growing a partnership with Alvirne High School in addition to regional partnerships, the Committee highlighted its growing collaboration with the Alvirne High School Sustainability Club, which has become an active participant in several community events. Students have assisted with the Pumpkin Smash, the Holi-

day Light Recycling Program, and other initiatives aimed at promoting environmental awareness.

“Alvirne Sustainability Club is now very closely collaborating with us,” Huber said. “They’ve been helping us tremendously, and at every single event where they participated, the students were just excited. The residents were excited; it makes me proud of the committee. I definitely want to acknowledge their support.”

Alvirne science teacher and Sustainability Club advisor Kathleen Murphy praised the partnership, calling it “a great asset” to students who want hands-on experience with environmental projects.

The Sustainability Advisory Committee is set for Monday, May 18, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Meeting Room.

School Audit

Continued from page 1

“I don’t understand this in the least bit,” Jasper said. “It seems like instead of saying they’ll take that dollar amount from the school’s fund balance to correct it, the amount came out of what the town has collected. It’s going to offset the tax rate in the future? I don’t understand how that happens.”

Town Administrator Roy Sorenson attempted to clarify, noting that the issue

stemmed from a calculation error during the midyear adjustment period.

“Typically, we set the tax rate and we know what is owed to the schools,” Sorenson said. “In this instance, they prepare what’s called a payment plan, we pay them once per month, 12 payments. After the six month mark, we have to make an adjustment because of the fiscal year, and there’s an estimate. That’s where the

error took place.”

Sorenson also suggested that turnover in the district’s Finance Department may have contributed to the oversight. How did the district miss an \$800,000 Shortfall? Budget Committee Chair James Lawrence questioned how such a large discrepancy, reportedly over \$800,000, went unnoticed for nearly a full year.

“Based on that scenario, the School District didn’t pick up on the fact that they were shy over \$800,000 until the end of the year?” Lawrence asked. “I found it somewhat

remarkable that they went the whole year without noticing that they were missing that money.”

Kilgour confirmed that the issue was not identified until recently.

“I believe that Ms. Graves came on July 1, 2025, and we went on for quite a while without a formal Business Administrator,” he said. “We did have somebody in there, but only on a part-time basis.”

The combination of staffing gaps, midyear adjustments, and complex billing procedures appears to have contributed to the delay in detecting the error.

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HUDSON SPORTS

Alvirne Boys Track & Field Post Strong Showing Home & Away

CHRIS PAUL
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne High School boys track and field team turned in several standout performances while hosting the 2026 Alvirne High School Meet #2 on Tuesday, May 5, in Hudson.

Leading the way for the Broncos was senior Joey Marcotte, who captured first place in three events. Mar-

cotte won the 110-meter hurdles in 14.81 seconds, took first in the 300 hurdles with a time of 39.89 seconds, and also claimed the long jump title with a leap of 20 feet, 9 inches.

Alvirne also received a dominant sprint performance from junior Jeremiah Caraballo-Sophos, who won the 200-meter dash in 22.29 seconds. Senior Jaden Taylor added another first-place finish for the Broncos

by taking the 100-meter dash in 11.08 seconds and later placed second in the high jump at 5 feet, 6 inches.

In the relay events, the Alvirne quartet of Sam Oquist, Joey Marcotte, Jaden Taylor, and Jeremiah Caraballo-Sophos captured first place in the 4x100 relay with a winning time of 44.26 seconds.

The Broncos distance squad also produced strong results. Junior Ashton Rowe finished fourth in the 1,600 meters in 5:05.10 before winning the 3,200 meters in 11:43.82. Teammate Roarke Brandt placed second in the 3,200 with a time of 11:43.82.

In the field events, junior Charles Barrett led the throwing team by winning the shot put with a toss of 44 feet, 7.5 inches. Sam Oquist added a third-place finish in the long jump at 18 feet, 3.75 inches.

Additional scoring performances came from freshman Joseph Anderson, who placed third in the 110 hurdles, and senior Shane Plumley, who finished fourth in the same event.

cos, capturing first place in the 110-meter hurdles with a winning time of 14.64 seconds. Teammate Jack Zakos also scored well in the event, placing eighth in 16.98 seconds.

Alvirne's 4x100 relay team of Sam Oquist, Marcotte, Jaden Taylor, and Jeremiah Caraballo-Sophos earned a second-place finish with a time of 43.14 seconds, one of the Broncos' top performances of the meet.

The Broncos also picked up points in the 4x400 relay, where Evan Harmen, Caraballo-Sophos, Taylor, and Shane Plumley combined for a sixth-place finish in 3:32.80.

In the field events, junior Charles Barrett had an outstanding day in the throwing events. Barrett finished third in the shot put with a toss of 44 feet and dominated the discus competition, taking first place with a throw of 151 feet, 6 inches.

Oquist added another solid effort in the long jump, placing ninth with a leap of 18 feet, 8.5 inches.

The Broncos also



Jeremiah Caraballo-Sophos in the 4x100 Relay.



Kyle Suppenant led the Broncos in the javelin at the Clipper event with a throw of 117 feet, 11 inches.

Clipper Relays

At the Clipper Relays on Thursday, May 7, in Portsmouth.

Senior Joey Marcotte led the way for the Bron-

received a strong showing in the distance medley relay (2,800 meters), where the Alvirne squad finished third overall with a time of 8:39.59.

Additional performances for Alvirne included a 13th-place finish in the

4x200 relay by Evan Harmen, Rais Mohammed-Sidi, Zakos, and Devon Arsenault. Kyle Suppenant led the Broncos in the javelin with a throw of 117 feet, 11 inches, while freshman Trevor Inzenga added a throw of 102 feet, 6 inches.

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Broncos Baseball Continues Tough Stretch Against DI Competition

CHRIS PAUL
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne High School baseball team continues to battle through a difficult Division I schedule, dropping five straight games after earning its first win of the season at the end

of April. Since defeating Nashua North 8-0 on April 27, the Broncos have suffered losses to Salem, Keene, Portsmouth, Timberlane, and Merrimack as they attempt to keep pace in one of the state's toughest divi-

sions. The closest contest during the stretch came on Friday, May 8, at Timberlane Regional High School, where Alvirne held a 1-0 lead through three innings before eventually falling 2-1 to the Owls.

Memphis Beach pitched a strong game despite taking the loss, throwing six innings while allowing just five hits, striking out four, and walking two.

Defensive miscues proved costly once again, as the Broncos committed five errors in the field.

Offensively, the top of the Alvirne lineup accounted for all of the team's production. First baseman Matty Bebris, right fielder Jameson Krueger, and Beach each collected two hits. Krueger added a double and drove in the Broncos' lone run.

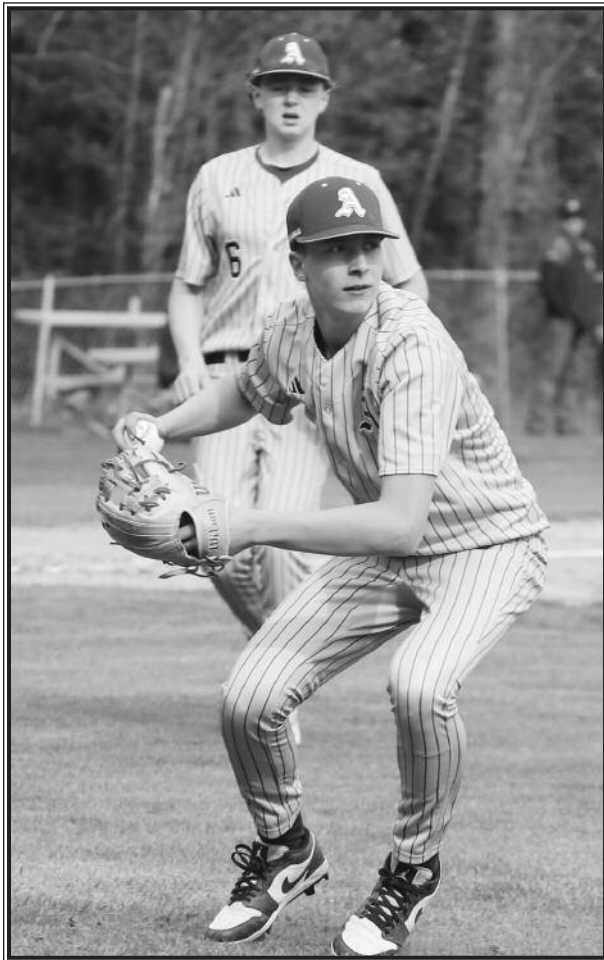
The one-run victory marked Timberlane's fourth win of the season.

On Monday afternoon, May 11, the Broncos returned home to face the Merrimack Tomahawks but came up short in a 4-1 defeat.

Right-hander Gavin Baviello delivered another



Shortstop Logan Orr makes an attempt to halt a Merrimack base runner during Monday's loss to the Tomahawks. Photo by Chris Paul



Right-hand pitcher Gavin Baviello fields a bunt in Monday's game against Merrimack.

solid pitching performance, tossing five innings while allowing six hits and just one earned run. He struck out one and walked one.

Merrimack capitalized on an error, two singles, and a sacrifice fly in the top of the second inning to score two runs, which proved to be enough to secure the victory.

Alvirne's only run came in the bottom of the fifth inning following a Bebris single.

Krueger continued his hot streak at the plate, going 3-for-3 from the No. 2 spot in the lineup. Bebris added

two hits, while first baseman Brady Mitchell contributed a one-out double in the sixth inning but was stranded at third base.

The win improved Merrimack to 4-0 on the season.

The Broncos' difficult week began with back-to-back eight-run losses.

The first came on Monday, May 4, at Keene High School, where the Blackbirds used two big offensive innings to power past Alvirne for a 12-4 victory.

Mitchell took the loss after pitching four innings and allowing 11 hits and one earned run. Defensive

struggles again played a significant role, with the Broncos committing five errors.

Mitchell and Bebris each collected two hits in the loss.

Two days later, at home against Portsmouth, the Broncos managed just four hits and were hurt again by defensive errors in an 8-0 shutout loss to the Clippers.

Brody Buja took the loss on the mound after pitching five innings and allowing six hits and three runs, none of them earned.

Krueger, Mitchell, Luke Norse, and Baviello each recorded hits for Alvirne.

With just seven games remaining in the regular season, the Broncos face an uphill climb as they try to keep their playoff hopes alive.

TOWN OF HUDSON, NH

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Broncos Girls Track and Field Shine at Alvirne Meet #2



Lilianna Jackson

CHRIS PAUL
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne High School girls' track and field team turned in a strong overall performance while hosting the 2026 Alvirne High School Meet #2 on Tuesday, May 5, in Hudson.

Leading the way for the Broncos was freshman Reese Wanamaker, who captured first place in the long jump with a leap of 15 feet, 5 inches and added a fourth-place finish in the 200 meters in 28.40 seconds.

Alvirne also received a first-place effort from freshman Sophie Sargent in the high jump after clearing

4 feet, 8 inches.

The Broncos' 4x400 relay team of Jane Makoviy, Taelyn Downey, Mae Guiraud, and Olivia Cartagena earned a first-place finish with a winning time of 4:29.11.

In the distance events, Mae Guiraud won the 800 meters in 2:20.45, while her AHS teammate Charlianna Downey finished second with a time of 2:33.75.

Kendall Rizza added a third-place finish in the event with a time of 2:47.60.

Morgan Coupal paced the Broncos in the 1,600 meters, placing third in 6:34.74, while Zoe Burt finished fourth in 6:44.89.

Ella Marcotte had a strong all-around day for Alvirne, taking second in the long jump at 14 feet, 7 inches and placing third in the 100-meter hurdles in 17.71 seconds.

Makoviy added a second-place finish in the 300 hurdles with a time of 44.91 seconds and also took fourth in the 100 hurdles.

The sprint relay team of Marcotte, Lilianna Jackson, Wanamaker, and Maura Hiller finished second in the 4x100 relay in 54.48 seconds.



Sophie Sargent

Town Clerk

Continued from page 1

unanimously approved accepting the donation.

The Board also heard a request from Chief Cayot regarding the department's Taser program. The current contract with Axon Enterprises Inc. expires in August 2026, with a yearly cost of \$35,294.40. Cayot explained that the Taser 7 units currently in use will soon be out of warranty, will require new licenses to access Evidence.com, and will no longer be covered under Axon's \$10 million liability protection.

Cayot recommended

transitioning to the TASER 10, which he described as a significant improvement in both range and reliability. "TASER 10 was designed to significantly increase effectiveness by mitigating the primary causes of ineffective deployments, including misses, limited probe spreads, loose or thick clothing, and probes pulled free," he wrote in his memo. The device features a single trigger, single probe deployment, allowing officers to place each probe individually for greater accuracy. With a maximum range of 45 feet and the ability to deploy 10 probes, the TASER 10 is intended

to address situations that older models could not.

Cayot requested permission to waive the competitive bidding process and enter into a five-year contract with Axon Enterprises beginning in FY27, at a yearly cost of \$47,999.99. The Board unanimously approved the request.

All three items; the Town Clerk appointment, the acceptance of the EBike donation, and the Taser contract request; received unanimous support from the Board of Selectmen, reflecting a meeting focused on administrative continuity, public safety, and operational updates.

Additional top performances came from Lilianna Jackson, who placed third in the 100 meters in 12.13 seconds, and Taelyn Downey, who finished fifth in the 400 meters with a time of 1:03.75.

In the field events, Lisa Amadi placed third in the long jump with a mark of

14 feet, 6 inches, while Celia Smalley added a fourth-place finish in the same event and took third in the high jump.

The Broncos continued to show depth throughout the meet with several underclassmen contributing strong finishes across the running and field events.

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Free State Project Awareness Presentation

Presented by Jeanne Dietsch of Granite State Matters

On Thursday, May 21, at 7 p.m., at Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road, Hudson



- What is the Free State Project?
- What They are doing in NH & how it affects us.
- What are their end goals?

Visit GraniteStateMatters.org

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Community Raises Nearly \$15,000 at Suicide Prevention Walk



The community turned out in force over the weekend for the Suicide Prevention Walk at Alvirne High School, where walkers, donors, and volunteers helped raise nearly \$15,000 to support suicide prevention programs. Suicide prevention efforts

Participants of all ages joined the event, which featured teams walking in memory of loved ones, students supporting classmates, and families coming together to raise awareness. Organizers said the generosity and turnout were “overwhelming,” noting that the funds will go directly toward education, outreach, and mental health support services.

Donations are still being accepted for those who wish to contribute can go to: <https://afspwalks.donordrive.com/Alvirne>

Courtesy photo

Alvirne Cadets Take Flight with NH Army National Guard

The Palmer CTE AFJROTC program enjoyed an unforgettable hands-on aviation experience on April 21, when the New Hampshire Army National Guard hosted the cadets at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Concord. The visit offered students a rare opportunity to step directly into the world of military aviation and explore the wide range of careers, training pathways, and real-world missions carried out by the Guard.

A total of 39 cadets participated in the field trip, which began with a formal pilot mission briefing out-

lining how Army aviation units plan, prepare, and execute flight operations. Cadets then received an aviation passenger safety briefing before boarding UH60 Blackhawk helicopters for orientation flights over the capital region. For many students, it was their first time flying in a military aircraft, an experience that left a lasting impression.

Throughout the day, cadets rotated through stations highlighting different aviation specialties, including aircraft maintenance, flight operations, and support roles essential to Army aviation missions. Guard

personnel shared their own career stories, explained the education and training required for various positions, and answered questions about service, benefits, and opportunities available through the New Hampshire Army National Guard.

The visit was made possible through the support of several dedicated chaperones: parent Jeremy Griffith, school counselor Karen O’Brien, and paraeducator Danyele Manning, all of whom accompanied the group and helped ensure a smooth and safe experience.

AFJROTC instructors

emphasized how valuable experiences like this are for students. The Palmer CTE AFJROTC program is built on a mission to develop citizens of character and strong leadership qualities, using aviation, military history, global awareness, and personnel management as its foundation. Opportunities to engage directly with military professionals reinforce classroom lessons and help students explore future pathways with confidence.

The program remains free and open to all high school students, regardless of whether they plan to pursue military service. Its focus is on leadership, teamwork, responsibility, and personal growth; qualities that benefit every student, no matter their future plans.



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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.

Friends of the Library May Meeting Change

The May meeting of the Friends of the Library will be held May 26 at 6 p.m., in the Community Room of Rodger's Memorial Library. The meeting will continue discussing supporting the summer reading program, National Night Out, and children's book donations. Come join us to help plan future support activities for the library to raise funds for free passes to area museums, educational venues, and other library activities.

39th Spring Artisan Craft Fair

On Saturday, May 16, on the grounds of St. Peter's Episcopal Church located on

Mammoth Road at 3 Peabody Row Londonderry. Admission and parking are free. More than 65 vendors are expected, along with raffles, a tag sale and snacks from St. Peter's Bistro. The fair will be held rain or shine and will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. and run through 4 p.m. Admission and parking are free. For more information, visit <https://stpeterslondonderry.org>.

Plant Sale

The Londonderry Green Team will host its Fourth Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, June 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lions Pavilion, in Londonderry. The sale will feature a wide variety of locally grown plants, including flowers, vegetables,

herbs, and pollinator-friendly selections. Donations of plants can be made, separate the plants and bring them on Friday before the sale or Saturday before the sale, to drop off. There will also be gently used gardening tools available for purchase, many of which were donated to help support the Green Team's work. For more information on the sale or to join the group email green-team603@gmail.com or message the groups Facebook page.

Hudson Safe

Join the Rodgers Library for this five-part series covering first aid, fire safety, disaster preparedness, trauma medicine and more. In part four learn how to prepare for,

survive, and recover from life altering events, including emotional and financial recovery on Saturday, May 23, at 9:30 a.m. Part 5 on trauma medicine to give you the tools, techniques and confidence you need to stop the bleed and save a life on Saturday, May 30, at 9:30 a.m.

Blood Drive at VFW Post 5791

A Red Cross blood drive will take place at VFW Post 5791, 15 Bockes Rd., Hudson, on Wednesday, May 29, from 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. As a thank you to donors, the Red Cross will be giving away beach towels to celebrate each donor's lifesaving gift.

Robinson Pond Volunteers

Did you know there is a dedicated group of Hudson volunteers who sample Robinson Pond and its six tributaries every summer? These volunteers are part of the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) and they are looking for volunteers to join their group. Samples

are taken in the morning, once per month, from May to September. These samples are tested by the state for chemicals, nutrients, pollutants and bacteria. Lab fees are covered by the Hudson Conservation Commission. Won't you join these volunteers and help keep Robinson Pond safe for you and your family during the summer? If interested please contact: Robinson-PondNH@hotmail.com

Historical Society Meeting

The Hudson Historical Society will hold their Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 27 at 7 p.m., at the Hills House, 211 Derry Rd., Hudson. All are invited! After the meeting they will host a fun Hudson Trivia Game!

Benson Park Saturday Cleanup

Please join for Park Cleanup Day the third Saturday of every month to help keep Benson Park clean and beautiful. Donate whatever time you can between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tools are available but bring

your own shovels, rakes, pruners, loppers, etc. if you have them. This is a great opportunity to serve the town, make new friends and enjoy the outdoors. Lunch will be provided. Sign up online if possible on the Friends of Benson Park website (friendsofbenson-park.org) or simply come to the Elephant Barn at the top of the hill to sign in.

Read 'Em & Eat @ Friendly Red's

This group will meet on Monday, May 18 at 7 p.m., to discuss "What You Are Looking For is in a Library" by Michiko Aoyama.

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 **continued on page 14**

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OBITUARY

Richard F. Cuff



Richard F. Cuff, 58, of Manchester NH, formerly of Hudson, NH, passed away on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at his home. Rich was born on May 24, 1967, in Cleveland OH, son of the late Richard and Eileen (Drake) Cuff. He graduated from Alvirne High School, class of 1985.

Rich was a huge sports fan, especially baseball and football. He was an avid Red Sox fan and would attend games whenever he could. His love of the Sox was rivaled by his love of the LA Rams. He took immense joy at being the only Rams fan in the local New England region and he never wavered in his devotion even when the Pats were crushing all their competition.

Rich was also a big music fan who attended many live concerts over the years. He saw U2 the most times, but his new favorite artist, Jack White, was quickly gaining ground.

He had a fascination with Bensons Wild Animal Farm. Memories of his friends working there, and hoping the fence to hang out with them, were fond memories. To this day, he still enjoyed visiting the park and walking around the grounds occasionally.

He is survived by his son Jordan, whom he loved deeply, his sisters, Jennifer and Veronica, his two nephews, Matthew and David, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. He is also survived by several good friends that stuck by him and loved him, even when he could not love himself.

All services are private. In lieu of flowers the family encourages donations be made in Rich's loving memory to Hope for NH Recovery at www.recoverynh.org/donate

To share an online message of condolence, please visit www.dumontsullivan.com. The Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

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Free Hands-Only CPR Trainings Available to Granite Staters

The New Hampshire Department of Safety's Division of Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services announces its support of the NH CPR Challenge, an initiative led by the Executive Council during National EMS Week, which begins Sunday, May 17 and continues through Saturday, May 23.

The NH CPR Challenge

is a bipartisan campaign with the objective of training at least 1,000 residents across all five Executive Council districts in lifesaving, hands-only CPR. Hands-only CPR is CPR without mouth-to-mouth breaths. It's recommended for use by people who witness someone suddenly collapse in an out-of-hospital setting, such as at home or work,

according to the American Heart Association.

"I am alive today because two people knew CPR," said Councilor John Stephen of District 4, who suffered a cardiac emergency last year. "Every Granite Stater should know these two simple steps: call 911, push hard and fast. It takes 15 minutes to learn, and it can be the difference

between life and death."

Trainings will be available in numerous communities statewide. Residents can register for free at CPRChallengeNH.com. Fire departments, businesses, churches, and community groups interested in hosting free CPR training can also sign up.

"Providing immediate CPR significantly increases

chances of survival after cardiac arrest," said Director Mark Wholey of the Division of Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services, which is providing six training sessions to State of New Hampshire employees as part of the NH CPR Challenge. Division staff will also assist local fire departments and community CPR

hosts by providing equipment and training materials, as well as ensuring instructors are equipped with the latest hands-only CPR best practices.

Businesses and community nonprofits are reminded to ensure their AED is included in the statewide registry so dispatchers can guide callers to nearby units.

Around Town Continued from page 13

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 Rodgers Library on Saturday, May 16, at 9:30 a.m. All skill levels are welcome.

Calligraphy That Inspired a Nation

Learn to write like America's founders. Participants will get the opportunity to write in script, use a dip nib and ink and scribe a line from the Declaration of Independence at Rodgers Library on Friday, May 15, at 6 p.m.

Cookbook Club

This group will meet at Rodgers Library on Monday, May 18, at 11:30 a.m. This month's cookbook is "Spiced: Unlock the Power of Spices to Transform Your Cooking" by America's Test Kitchen.

Afternoon Book Group

This group will meet at Rodgers Library on Tuesday, May 19, at 1:30 p.m. This month's book pick is "Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books" by Kirsten Miller.

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library will hold its meeting on Tuesday, May 19, at 6

p.m., at Rodgers Library, which is open to everyone.

Crime & Cookies

Monthly meeting of the Rodgers Library true crime podcast club will be on Wednesday, May 20, at 7 p.m.

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.

BINGO!

Bingo is back at the Senior Center, 19 Kimball Hill Rd., Hudson, every Tues-

day 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.

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. Contact the Library with any questions.

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 Lib-

rary 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.

Inhouse Secondhand Prose Book Sale

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

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.

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.

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)

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.

ALVIRNE BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday **May 14th** Start at **2:00pm - 6:30pm**

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OBITUARY

Laurel Mary (Cloutier) Lincoln



Laurel Mary (Cloutier) Lincoln, 96, of Hudson, NH, passed away on Saturday, May 2, 2026 following a brief illness. She was born May 27, 1929 in Lowell, MA, daughter of the late Henry and Blanche (Paquin) Cloutier.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 60 wonderful years, John Lincoln. Laurel was also predeceased by 6 brothers and two sisters.

Laurel attended schools in both Hudson and Nashua and attended the former Lowell Commercial College.

She is survived by her loving brother, Norman Cloutier, of Hudson, as well as by many dear nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held on Thursday, May 14 at 10:30 a.m., in St. Patrick Cemetery, 75 Derry Road, in Hudson. All may please meet at the cemetery.

To share an online message of condolence, please visit www.dumontsullivan.com. The Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

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