

Around the Towns



COURTESY

This is a surveillance photo of the man suspected in the robbery of Ocean Bank on Birch Street yesterday afternoon.

DERRY

Robber hits Ocean Bank

Police are looking for the man who robbed Ocean Bank yesterday afternoon, getting away with a bag of cash.

The robber, described as a white man, mid-30s, about 5-foot-8 with medium build and short brown hair, entered the Birch Street bank just before 3:30 p.m., and handed a note demanding cash to one of the tellers. He did not show a weapon.

The robber then fled the bank on foot. State police search dogs were brought in to sweep the area but did not pick up a scent.

Detectives said the robber was wearing a dark green baseball cap, black long-sleeved shirt, khaki-colored shorts and was carrying a large red duffel bag. Anyone who recognizes the robber or has information regarding this crime is asked to contact Derry Police at 432-6111 or the Southern New Hampshire Crime Line at (800) 498-4040.

LONDONDERRY

Man accused of false imprisonment

A fourth man has been charged with false imprisonment and possession of a controlled narcotic following an April party during which nine people were allegedly forced to hide from authorities, police said.

Michael Stephen Jardine Jr., 21, of 22 Linlew Drive Apt. 1 in Derry, joins Edward Casey Shea, Matthew Shea and Larry Delgado as those arrested in connection with the April 10 party at 280 Winding Pond Road.

Police had responded to a domestic disturbance call at approximately 2:30 a.m. at the house, but no one responded to knocks at the door. According to the arresting affidavits, one of the partygoers sent a text message to her father saying she was inside the house, wanted to leave and could not.

After obtaining a search warrant, police entered the home and found approximately nine people, according to the affidavit. Interviews with the partygoers indicated Jardine, Delgado and the Shea brothers had kept them from using their cell phones and from leaving the house while police were in the area.

Jardine was arrested and released on personal recognizance bail. He is scheduled to appear in Derry District Court on Tuesday, July 6, at 8:30 a.m.

Agricultural movement takes root in Windham

◆ **Local produce:** A group of residents who want the town to have its own agricultural commission to link growers and consumers is holding an informational meeting next week.

By **CHELSEY POLLOCK**
Union Leader Correspondent

WINDHAM — Lori Demaine hopes Windham residents will one day turn to farmers within the town for fresh produce, rather than heading to a corporate grocery chain.

"I would love to see more local plants and vegetables being sold by Windham residents to Windham residents and to have those direct sales going back into the community," Demaine said yesterday.

Demaine said a town agricultural commission could provide the bridge

between those who are growing produce and those wishing to buy it.

"We need for people to collaborate in a way that will give them a chance to meet other people that are doing backyard farming and form more of a community in Windham," she said.

Since attending a workshop on the subject in March, Demaine has been working with the Rockingham Planning Commission to establish an agricultural commission in Windham.

The Rockingham Planning Commission, based in Exeter, is a nonprofit

regional development group that provides guidance to local municipalities on planning-related issues.

Commission consultant Theresa Walker said more and more agriculture commissions are popping up all over the state.

"I think it's a discussion that has really grown over the last couple of years, with farmers markets and all kinds of discussions about local food," Walker said. "I would say it is a hot topic in the state."

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CAROL ROBIDOUX

Derry-based pop-punk band Cadence, front to back, Tim Parrott, Dan McMahon, Megan McMahon, Dave Ziebart and Alex Carrozzi, will put it all on the line during Sunday's High School Band Brawl at Gillette Stadium in Massachusetts.

WHEREVER THE MUSIC TAKES THEM

By **CAROL ROBIDOUX**
Union Leader Correspondent

Drummer Dan McMahon and guitarist Dave Ziebart are those kids who are so into music, it's not enough to have an iPod full of tunes.

They are the kids driven to pick up instruments and learn to play them well enough to form their own band because the need to make music is greater than the urge to listen.

Six months ago, after separate attempts at musical chemistry, the former middle school friends reunited at the Sad Cafe, a local music venue in Plaistow. They decided to join forces and recruit a few friends, resulting in Cadence, a five-member punk-pop band currently poised for greatness.

Sunday they will be one of nine finalists competing in High School Band Brawl at Gillette Stadium, playing a 15-minute set of original music.

"Getting signed is our fantasy. That's the life we want, the life we've decided to go for."

DAN MCMAHON

"Even if we don't win, the exposure will be great," said Megan McMahon, who sings lead vocals thanks to her brother's faith in her voice.

"I knew she could sing, and we knew there were a lot of guy bands out there. We thought this could be something cool," said Dan.

Friends Alex Carrozzi on guitar and

Tim Parrott on bass round out the band.

It's been an eventful six months. The five have become fast friends who spend all their down time together. When they're not jamming or writing new music, they're watching their favorite bands performing on DVD or YouTube, hoping that the subtleties of success somehow rub off.

After experimenting with different musical styles and covering some of their favorite bands, Cadence has declared itself a pop-punk band — characterized by driving guitars and more distortion than alternative



A great idea followed by a sweet treat

◆ **Londonderry:** The Matthew Thornton fourth-graders who came up with this year's Old Home Day theme celebrate with an ice cream party.

By **ALEC O'MEARA**
Union Leader Correspondent

LONDONDERRY — Patti Murphy's fourth-grade class was honored with ice cream served by some of the town's highest ranking elected officials yesterday for its role in selecting the theme for the 2010 Old Home Day celebration.

The theme, "Londonderry: The Apple of Our Eye" was selected by the Old Home Day Committee in March after all fourth-grade classes in the town's three elementary schools submitted entries. Not only

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Bridge to be reopened on June 21

◆ **Salem:** The Bluff Street Extension project is expected to come in about \$12,000 under budget.

By **CHELSEY POLLOCK**
Union Leader Correspondent

SALEM — Town staff expect to reopen the Bluff Street Extension bridge just one month after its state-recommended closure in May and about \$12,000 under budget.

"Unless major things happen this week or next week, we plan on reopening Bluff Street Extension on the 21st of June," said Public Works Director Rick Russell at a selectmen's meeting on Monday.

The bridge was unexpectedly closed on May 20, after the town received a notice the bridge had failed a state Department of Transportation inspection due to cor-

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'Suicide pact' prevented; two in custody

◆ **Hampstead:** No charges have been filed.

By **JASON SCHREIBER**
Union Leader Correspondent

HAMPSTEAD — After lengthy negotiations, authorities diffused a potentially deadly situation Wednesday night when a man threatened to kill himself and his girlfriend as part of a "suicide pact," police said.

Robert Partridge, 61, and Janis Bonnaccorso, 49, were taken into custody around 11 p.m. on Wednesday following negotiations that began after Hampstead police

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Pact

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became aware of a potential threat, police said.

Police received a call just before 8 p.m. from the National Veteran Suicide Prevention hotline in New York stating that Partridge was on the line. The hotline operator said Partridge had a gun in his hand and was threatening suicide, police said.

Partridge also told the operator he was in his house located at 2 Chamberlain Ave. in East Hampstead and that he was with his girlfriend, identified by police as Bonnacorso. Police said Partridge threatened to shoot her as well and that the two had a "suicide pact." He told the operator that if the police were called he would do it sooner, police said.

Hampstead police secured the area and had ambulance and rescue personnel staged around the house.

The Derry-based Southern N.H. Special Operations Unit was then activated.

"My decision to have the (Special Operations Unit) team activated on this call was made exactly to better insure the outcome we obtained. ... The team worked with the on-duty Hampstead officers on scene,"

Frazier said, adding that the team included members who were highly trained to handle this type of situation.

Frazier said no direct threats were made against police during the incident.

Hampstead police stayed in contact with the hotline operator for updates until Special Operations Unit arrived around 9:30 p.m.

After arriving, police said the team established command and was able to secure the area of the house. As negotiations with Partridge continued through the hotline operator, the team was able to locate and remove Partridge and Bonnacorso from the house without incident around 11 p.m.

Partridge and Bonnacorso were taken into custody and transported to Parkland Medical Center in Derry for evaluations by Center for Life Management, police said.

No injuries were reported during the incident. Police recovered two firearms from the residence.

Frazier said no charges have been filed but that it is "still an option."

Bridge

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rosion of three 6-foot-wide steel pipes under the structure.

Russell said the town quickly jumped into action after learning of the problem.

"I just want to point out from the day we closed Bluff Street for traffic it was five working days and we had a crew on site to begin work," Russell told selectmen on Monday.

At an emergency meeting just days after the closure, selectmen authorized an \$87,000 slip-line fix, where plastic tubing was to be placed inside the corroded pipe to temporarily reinforce the structure.

Town staff have said the temporary fix will hold for about two to three years, and the bridge is already slated for reconstruction in 2012.

Russell said he expects the contractor, Culvert Rehabilitation Services of Maine, to be finished at the site today.

Then, he said, Salem public works employees will finish up the project by repaving the affected roadway.

That in-house work will save the town about \$12,000 from the initial authorization, he said.

"We contacted the contractor to see if there was some of that work we could do in-house and there is about \$17,000 of that work the DPW is going to perform," he said.

The town will need to spend \$5,000 of those savings on materials, he said.

Repairs to Bluff Street Ex-

tension are to be covered by a \$100,000 state reimbursement for the already-completed Hooker Farm Road project, according to town staff.

Director of Engineering Bob Puff has estimated that Bluff Street Extension serves about 2,500 cars on the average day. But its bigger job is yet to come.

This summer, the bridge will serve as a crucial detour route for the already-scheduled reconstruction of the North Main Street and Emerson Way bridges over Widow Harris Brook.

Puff said he was initially worried the Bluff Street Extension closure could affect the other two projects, but say it looks like construction on both will begin as scheduled in July.

And bids on both projects have come in under budget.

George Cairns & Sons of Windham submitted the lowest bids for both projects, Puff said, at \$381,814 for Emerson Way and \$499,046 for North Main Street.

Because the projects are eligible for 80 percent state reimbursement, Puff said the bids cannot be officially accepted until state approval.

But if it all goes through, he said the town should expect to spend less than the \$1.3 million bond authorized by voters in March to fund both construction projects.

"We probably have a couple hundred thousand dollars that will be remaining," Puff said.

Windham

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And for Windham, Demaine said the opportunities are endless.

"Basically the goal is to have the town of Windham have a voice for the farmers and to connect people who want local agriculture," she said. "From there, they can do community gardens, they can try to influence zoning laws and have farmers markets. There are a lot of different things you can do with it, but it's all up to the community to figure out what they want."

To gauge public interest, Demaine and Walker organized an informational meeting to be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday at Nesmith Library.

Both Demaine and Walker will be speaking about getting a commission going in Windham, and Lee Agricultural Commission member Erick Sawtelle will also share his experiences.

Demaine said the meeting is intended to reach anyone involved in backyard agriculture, large-scale farming operations or just those who are hoping to purchase more local food.

And the latter population is on the rise, she said.

"I think that people are becoming more concerned about where their food is com-

ing from and hopefully people understand the benefits of eating local, supporting their own economy and preserving the rural character of Windham," she said.

Windham Community Development Director Laura Scott said it's important to get a jump-start on those preservation efforts now, amid rapid economic growth in southern New Hampshire.

"Once you build on top of a farm, you never get a new farm," she said. "It's really hard to recreate good agricultural soils."

But Scott also said she sees economic and agricultural development efforts working hand in hand.

"We all have to eat and most of us aren't growing our own food," she said. "Instead of trucking it in from California, wouldn't it be good to keep our money in the local economy in Windham and keep the dollar moving in the community?"

Though the commission would wield no regulatory power, residents still have the final say in establishing an agricultural commission at the polls. Scott said she hopes to see a warrant article on the issue on next year's ballot.

Danville meeting draws concerned residents

By JASON SCHREIBER
Union Leader Correspondent

DANVILLE — Nearly 40 residents packed a Planning Board meeting last night to listen to and voice concerns about a proposal to build a large retirement community and a retail center on Route 111.

Blasting, traffic and buffers between the development and residential properties were among the concerns aired over the proposal by Ozzir Properties LLC of Plaistow to build a continuing care community for residents 55 and over called Royal Crest of Danville.

The project — built on a 38-acre campus — would involve 200 independent living units, 40 assisted units, and a 54-bed health care facility on Route 111.

The facility would offer many health care services and other amenities.

The project also includes a proposed 50,000-square-foot retail center to be called Crown Plaza. It would be built near the retirement community and include a restaurant, convenience store, and several other tenants.

Access to the development would be from Route 111 at Frye Road. The road would be improved and extended to Route 111, where traffic lights would need to be installed, officials said.

Arthur Pappas, marketing director for Ozzir Properties, outlined many of the benefits of having the retirement community in town. However, he said that under state licensing requirements, a proposed medical clinic

and doctors' offices are the only part portion of the facility that could be accessed by the general public. All other health care services would only be offered only to residents of the community, he said.

Some residents who own horses in the neighborhood expressed concern about the possibility of blasting and how it could frighten them.

Julie Sorensen, whose property on Kacie Lane would border the site, said she was not only worried about the blasting but also light and noise pollution from the proposed restaurant, which is close to her property. The project would cut through her riding trail system as well, she said.

Sorensen didn't oppose the plan, but said she wants to make

sure that it's done correctly to minimize the impact on residents.

Kacie Lane resident Glenn Fitzpatrick said he was also worried about blasting and how it could affect residential wells. With two small children, Fitzpatrick said he's also concerned about traffic.

Others said they wanted to make sure there were proper buffers between their properties and the project.

Planning board Chairman Barry Hantman said there would be several opportunities for the public to speak on the project during the lengthy approval process.

"We need to make sure it's done right and it turns out to be a development Danville is happy with," he said.



CAROL ROBIDOUX

Cadence is a Derry-based band about to compete in the first High School Band Brawl on Sunday at Gillette Stadium in Massachusetts. From left are Alex Carrozz, Tim Parrott, Megan McMahon, Dave Ziebart and Dan McMahon.

Soapbox

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bands.

Making it is equally important to each of the band members, which is why they dedicate every waking hour to their music. They are in the process of recording a four-song EP featuring original tunes, including "Caught Me Falling," a tune which they feel really represents the band.

"We wrote it together — and

we had a huge fight over the lyrics," said Megan. "That's kind of when we decided that Dave and I should do most of the song writing. It's too hard for five people to collaborate."

If they win Sunday, they get \$2,500 donated to the school music program of their choice — it's going to Pinkerton Academy, even though a couple of the band members attended Nashua schools.

They also get to open a show for Boston-based alt rockers Keep Me Conscious, and a fully produced show at a Manchester venue.

"Getting signed is our fantasy. That's the life we want, the life we've decided to go for," said Dan.

"Yeah, it would be our dream to go on, like, a yearlong tour, just traveling and playing our music," said Megan.

"And it's not even about the money. It's about the fun and the crowds, and getting our music out there, and people actually coming to hear our music. Even now, we're getting a good response from crowds when we play, and that's for our original stuff, not covers," said Dave.

Find Cadence online at www.myspace.com/cadenceband09.



ALEC O'MEARA

Hannah Fitzgerald, 10, gets whipped cream from state Rep. Al Baldasaro during the Old Home Day ice cream party at Matthew Thornton Elementary School yesterday. Meanwhile, state Sen. Sharon Carson, center, serves the next student in line.

Treat

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does the winning class get its theme onto the year's T-shirts and program, but its members are awarded either a pizza or ice cream party for their work, Old Home Day Committee Chairman Kathy Wagner said.

Present at Matthew Thornton Elementary School to deliver the ice cream were school district facilities director Chuck Zappala, Town Moderator Cindi Rice Conley and state Sen. Sharon Carson. Also in attendance was state Rep. Al Baldasaro, who reluctantly served whipped cream.

"I'm not usually the whipped cream guy; we all need to understand this in here," Bal-

dasaro said.

Now in its 111th year, Londonderry's five-day Old Home Day celebration is one of the largest and oldest in the state, Wagner said. The effort to raise \$28,000 for the event remains on track, Wagner said, with no major events from the previous year in jeopardy of getting cut.

Because tradition dictates that Old Home Day is held on the third Sunday of August, this year's celebration will run from Aug. 18 to 23, Wagner said. While the date is later than usual, keeping with the original format set up over a century ago is part of how the town is

able to claim that its celebration is one of the few that has run uninterrupted since its inception, Wagner said.

"Thankfully, our loyal sponsors have allowed us to retain all of the events residents have come to expect year after year," Wagner said.

After Murphy's class was served, Matthew Thornton Principal Carol Mack stopped by the classroom to congratulate the students on coming up with the winning theme. Mack's appearance served a dual role, because she has been selected as grand marshal for the 2010 parade. Mack declined the ice

cream, joking that she hoped to maintain her figure for parade day.

The way Old Home Day touches so many different generations in town is part of what makes the celebration special, Baldasaro said.

"What you have is families who come back to town for this celebration," Baldasaro said. "It is a win-win for the community, in that it is something that brings us closer together."

Businesses interested in renting a booth for the event or becoming sponsors are encouraged to call Town Hall at 432-1100, ext. 171, Wagner said.