

St. Patrick's Day

Celebrate the annual tradition with festivities across the Monadnock region, from toe-tapping jigs and corned beef and cabbage in Peterborough to Celtic fiddling in Dublin — New Hampshire, that is. **Page 16 & 17**



A musical recovery for one local man **Page 13**



MONADNOCK

Ledger-Transcript

Peterborough, N.H.

Thursday, March 15, 2012

50¢

ELECTION 2012: TOWN VOTING



STAFF PHOTO BY ANGELA JANE EVANCIE

Candidates for town office canvas in front of the polls at the Mascenic Regional High School Auditorium on Tuesday afternoon.

\$4M bond passes; two votes on wind

ConVal gym approved; SRO rejected again

By DAVE ANDERSON
Monadnock Ledger-Transcript

It was a close call, but a \$4 million bond proposal to renovate and expand the ConVal High School gymnasium wing passed muster with voters Tuesday, getting the necessary 60 percent approval margin by just 13 votes.

The unofficial vote total released by the ConVal School District Wednesday shows 2,413 Yes votes and 1,587 No votes. The project is intended to bring the gymnasium wing into compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act and Title IX requirements. It will also include renovations to the gym itself and provide additional classroom space in the gym wing, along with equally sized locker rooms for boys and girls and two team rooms.

Voters also approved a \$44.3 million operating budget, by a margin of 2,215 to 1,757.

"Overall it was a great day for ConVal," said ConVal School Superintendent Dick Bergeron on Wednesday. "Once again we witnessed the importance of a basic civics lesson — every vote counts. Everyone is walking

Turn to CONVAL.....Page 6

Budget nixed, wind rules OK'd in New Ipswich

By ANGELA JANE EVANCIE
Monadnock Ledger-Transcript

NEW IPSWICH — Voters struck down a \$2.5 million town operating budget by a one-vote margin on Tuesday, while 10 other monetary warrant articles passed with wide margins and an amendment to the town's zoning ordinance for wind development passed by a vote of 564 to 447.

Turn to NEW IPSWICH.....Page 5

Antrim wind rules fail

By ASHLEY SAARI
Monadnock Ledger-Transcript

ANTRIM — An amended Large Scale Wind Ordinance put forth by the Planning Board failed at the polls on Tuesday once again, by 106 votes, after a previous attempt to pass a similar ordinance failed at a special town vote in November.

Turn to ANTRIM.....Page 5

BY THE NUMBERS

Town-by-town round up of polling results for contested elections and zoning articles across the Monadnock region, **Page 9.**

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Mascenic and Conant school districts weigh in on operating budgets and school board candidates, **Page 10.**

WIND DEBATE

Antrim, New Ipswich and Temple all cast ballots on proposed zoning ordinances that would regulate wind energy development, **Page 5.**

SB 2 TOWNS

Bennington and Rindge decide on operating budgets and warrant articles during annual voting in lieu of Town Meeting, **Pages 8 & 11.**

Wilton man charged in sex assaults

62-year-old alleged to have raped victims over the course of five years

By ANGELA JANE EVANCIE
Monadnock Ledger-Transcript



Martin J. Muscelli Sr.

WILTON — A Wilton man was arrested Monday and charged with two counts of aggravated felonious sexual assault against minors, at least one of whom was younger than 12-years-old at the time of the assaults, according to a press release issued by the Wilton Police Department on Tuesday and comments made Wednesday by Police Chief Brent Hautanen.

Martin J. Muscelli Sr., 62, of Wilton was arrested and

taken into custody after police investigated a Feb. 27 complaint regarding sexual assaults alleged to have taken place between 2005 and 2011, according to the release. The Child Advocacy Center of Hillsborough County, a member of the Granite State Children's Alliance, is also involved in the investigation.

After his arrest, Muscelli was transported to the 9th Circuit Court in Milford, where his bail was set at \$75,000 cash, according to the Wilton Police Department's press release. Unable to post bail, Muscelli was tak-

Turn to ASSAULT.....Page 4

Coffey cleared in file theft case

Former New Ipswich Select Board member, state rep, acquitted on charges of theft of personnel file

By ANGELA JANE EVANCIE
Monadnock Ledger-Transcript

NEW IPSWICH — Rep. Jim Coffey, R-New Ipswich, District 3, was acquitted this month on charges of taking his own personnel file from the Hillsborough County town offices in December of 2010 because he did not have a "purpose to deprive," according to the 9th Circuit Court in Henniker.

Coffey, who sits on the

New Ipswich Board of Assessors and is a former Select Board Chair, was elected to represent Hillsborough County District 3, which comprises the towns of Greenville, New Ipswich, Peterborough and Sharon, in 2010.

He worked as business administrator for the town of Hillsborough from 1992 to 2008, when he left that position to become district administrator for the Emerald

Turn to REP.....Page 4

RINDGE

Details released in car crash that killed student

By ALYSSA DANDREA
Monadnock Ledger-Transcript

RINDGE — Police released on Tuesday the names of drivers and more information about circumstances leading to a two-car accident that killed a Massachusetts teenager on Route 202 earlier this month.

Although the exact cause

of the crash is still under investigation, Sgt. Frank Morrill said a preliminary investigation shows that a 2001 Chevy Blazer driven by Cheryl Jankowski, 50, of New Ipswich crossed the centerline of the roadway and hit a 2000 Honda Civic driven by Jose Freitas, 18, of Winchendon, Mass., head-on. Jankowski was driving

Turn to DETAILS.....Page 4

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Town operating budget fails by one vote; wind rules approved

NEW IPSWICH... (from page 1)

The wind ordinance amendments passed after prolonged debate between Planning Board members, residents and representatives from the wind developer Pioneer Green Energy regarding whether or not new regulations — especially a 33-decibel sound level limit — were too stringent to allow for development.

"This is a zone-out, as we said all along," Pioneer Green representative Adam Cohen said Wednesday of the approved wind ordinances in both New Ipswich and Temple. "Instead of paying lower taxes and getting hundreds of jobs, [residents are] going to get nothing."

Cohen could not confirm whether or not Pioneer Green is still seeking to submit a proposal for a wind farm on Wapack Ridge.

In response, Planning Board Chair Ed Dekker said Pioneer Green's proposal will be grandfathered under the 2010 wind ordinance, and that Cohen is "just blowing smoke."

"I'm glad to see that it [the ordinance] passed, given the amount of work that the Planning Board put into the

ordinance amendment," Dekker said.

A close race for a seat on the Select Board to fill a vacancy left by Chair Benti Hoiska — who did not seek reelection — resulted in a win for Benjamin Cargill of Cargill Farm. Cargill defeated Rebecca Doyle by 29 votes and Dennis Eastman, a less publicly prominent opponent, by 174 votes.

Planning Board incumbent Jim Schultz won his reelection handily, while Bernard Hamill earned just enough votes to claim a second seat on the board when he won 310 votes to Paul Termin's 303. Termin is a current Planning Board alternate.

Reflecting a deeply divided electorate, the \$2.5 million operating budget failed by a vote of 505-504. The near-perfect split struck down a budget that was the result of a \$130,000 increase, passed by secret ballot at the deliberative session in early February, to the budget initially proposed by the Finance Committee and Select Board. The town will now adopt a default budget of \$2.3 million.

Town Clerk Cindy Lussier said Wednesday afternoon

that there had not been an official request for a recount of the budget vote. Written requests for recounts must be submitted in writing with five to seven days, depending on the article, according to Lussier.

Residents who proposed the budget hike at the deliberative session cited the need to improve retention of town employees and revive the town's Recreation Department.

"Obviously the vote is the will of the people," Select Board member Michael Conlin told the Ledger-Transcript Wednesday. "So you have to respect that. But I kind of wished there was two more votes there."

Conlin said that the \$2.5 million budget was higher than what the Select Board and Finance Committee had budgeted for, but would have been a "nice way to jump forward." Conlin also pointed out that the town has reverted to its default budget for four out of the passed five years, and in the remaining year slashed its operating budget by \$150,000 at the deliberative session.

A warrant article for \$200,000 to repave and rebuild town roads passed by

one of the widest margins on the ballot: 740-209. An article requesting a \$7 million bond to repave 25 miles of roads failed in a 591-435 vote.

Tim Ojala, who voted for the road funding but against the town and district budgets, said he thought road repairs should be a top priority.

"Everybody uses the roads, but not everybody uses the schools," he said.

Steven and Carol Levesque said they supported the \$2.5 million budget and the road funding.

"My concerns were getting funding for the Police Department to have around the clock coverage, and get-

ting the roads fixed," Carol Levesque said.

Outside the pools, a cadre of candidates stood with signs bearing their names and greeted voters; despite the fact that some were running against one another, the mood was jovial.

"The whole process has just been fun," Becky Doyle said. "All of the candidates have been very respectful of one another."

Judy Spring, who would later lose to incumbent James Coffey for a seat on the Board of Assessors by less than 150 votes, agreed with Doyle. "Local politics is

where it starts, if we want to make change," she said.

Voters supported raising \$175,000 for a new six-wheel dump truck, \$8,400 for improvements to the town pool, and an article that requested \$0 for repairs to Building #2, a town building that has been abandoned due to mold. That article requested \$130,000 until the deliberative session, when another secret ballot vote reduced it to zero.

Angela Jane Evancie can be reached at 924-7172 ext. 232 or aeavancie@ledgertranscript.com. She's on Twitter at @AJEvancie.

Antrim wind rules fail again

ANTRIM..... (from page 1)

The ordinance would not have applied to the 10-turbine wind farm proposed by Antrim Wind Energy, a subsidiary of Eolian Energy, slated for construction on Tuttle Hill. The wind farm, due to its anticipated level of energy output — 30 megawatts — is currently under the control of the state's Site Evaluation Committee.

Stephen MacDonald, who was elected on Tuesday to the Planning Board, said of the ordinance's defeat, "This is the second time, even after some changes were made. And again, it was again pretty soundly defeated, so I guess for the time being the people have spoken."

A two-way race for the open Select Board position between incumbent Mike Genest and Mary Sherbourne became a three-way battle when Bob Edwards agreed to take the position if he were elected as a write-in candidate only days before the election.

Despite the late start, Edwards put in a strong showing, coming within 14 votes of the winner, Genest, who retained his position on the Select Board with just under 42

percent of the vote. Edwards was also written in for one of the six open positions on the Budget Advisory Committee.

Other contested races this year included sewer and water commissioner and the position for town moderator. Melissa Lombard won the position of sewer and water commissioner by 33 votes, defeating incumbent Fernando Barsanti.

Arthur Merrill also unseated his opponent, long-time incumbent Robert Flanders, for the town moderator position by 39 votes.

"It's quite a surprise actually," said Merrill, adding that he had not expected to win the position this year. "I hope I can do half a good as the job as Mr. Flanders has done over the last 40 years," he said. (For further election results, see page nine.)

In addition to the defeated Large Scale Wind Ordinance, five additional zoning amendments appeared on the ballot this year. With the exception of the wind ordinance, all five passed. Four of the additional items were simply "housekeeping" items to correct or add references, without changing the intent or enforcement of the ordinances.

One article that does have an impact on the enforcement was article number four, whose passage adjusts district regulations for personal wireless service facilities.

Under the old ordinance, cell phone towers were not allowed in the Rural Conservation District, which comprises about half of the town. With the current amendment, they are allowed after gaining a special exception from the Zoning Board.

The ordinance also now states that cell towers would not be allowed at all in the Residential or Village Residential districts. Under the old ordinance, cell towers were allowed in those districts if they were granted a special exception. The Residential and Village Residential Districts make up the smallest portion of Antrim's area.

Voters will meet to vote on remaining warrant articles during Town Meeting today at 7 p.m. in the Town Gym.

Ashley Saari can be reached at 924-7172 ext. 235 or asaari@ledgertranscript.com. She's on Twitter at @AshleySaari.

TEMPLE

Wind ordinance passes by wide margin

Incumbents hold on to contested seats

BY ANGELA JANE EVANCIE
Monadnock Ledger-Transcript

TEMPLE — A wind ordinance earned overwhelming support from residents in Tuesday's vote, while two town officials easily won reelection for seats on the Select Board and Planning Board.

The zoning ordinance for wind development is the town's first; Planning Board members completed a draft earlier this year in anticipation of a proposal for a 20-megawatt wind farm by Texas-based developer Pioneer Green Energy that would stretch across the Wapack ridge from New Ipswich into Temple.

Planning Board members modeled several aspects of the ordinance on regulations held within a wind ordinance amendment in New Ipswich, chief among them a 33-decibel sound level limit that Pioneer Green representatives said was too low — in New Ipswich, at least — for development. New Ipswich's ordinance also passed on Tuesday.

"I'm feeling pretty good about it," Planning Board Chair Allan Pickman told the Ledger-Transcript Wednesday. "I think the town obviously felt that the board had done well, and that we're working to protect their interests."

When asked what the next step in potential wind development would be, Pickman responded, "That, at this point, is really up to Pioneer Green or any other developers... We have not seen any kind of a formal application from them."

Efforts to reach representatives from Pioneer Green before press deadline were not successful.

Select Board Chair John Kieley bested

opponent Philip Waterman by a wide margin; the vote was 233 to 188. Mary Beth Avazian, meanwhile, will hold her seat on the Planning Board for another three years. Newcomer Camilla Lockwood will join Avazian for a three-year term after defeating Honey Hastings; Ken Sullivan won a two-year term after defeating Arthur Kelley.

"I'm very touched that the town had such confidence in me," Lockwood said Wednesday. "I think it's wonderful and I hope that I rise to their expectations."

Ken Sullivan expressed similar enthusiasm. "I feel great about it," he said Wednesday. "I'm really looking forward to doing the work. I'm retired and I have the time available to do the work, which is important, and a real love for town."

Philip Waterman, who lost to Kieley, the incumbent, said Wednesday that he feels nothing but gratitude for the chance to have run.

"I just want to say thank you to the people who voted for me, and thank you to the people who voted for Mr. Kieley," Waterman said. "Thanks to the people who are doing their part to make the town government stronger... that's what's important."

A petitioned warrant article that proposed that Temple adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB 2) failed by a slim margin; the vote was 227 to 212.

Voting on the remainder of the town warrant will take place at Temple's town meeting, which will be held this Saturday at the elementary school at 10 a.m.

Angela Jane Evancie can be reached at 924-7172 ext. 232 or aeavancie@ledgertranscript.com. She's on Twitter at @AJEvancie.

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by Zane Broome, D.D.S.

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