

NASHUA & REGION

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NEWS DIGEST

Board candidate forum scheduled for library

NASHUA – Candidates for the five open slots on the Nashua Board of Education are scheduled for a forum at 7 p.m. Oct. 30 at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St. Candidates filed for the five open seats are: Jessica Brown, Sharon Giglio, Renata Olszewski, Sandra Ziehm, Jennifer Bishop, Jamila Scales, Anthony Sanichara, Doris Hohensee, Burton Janz, Paula Johnson, Howard Coffman and Greg Surbey.

The forum will be moderated by the League of Women Voters New Hampshire - Greater Nashua, a nonpartisan voter-information group that does not support or oppose any candidates or political parties. The library and The Telegraph are also sponsoring the event, which is free and open to the public.

Visit nashualibrary.org/visit/directions for directions and parking information.

Filing period for presidential primary set

CONCORD – New Hampshire Secretary of State Bill Gardner has announced the filing period for the 2020 presidential primary will be Oct. 30 through Nov. 15. The Secretary of State's Office will be open 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on all days, with the exception of Veteran's Day.

Moose needs stairs to escape home's pool

BEDFORD (AP) — A young moose that got stuck in a New Hampshire swimming pool has been successfully coaxed out.

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department biologists and conservation officers were called to a Bedford home Tuesday to help remove the young bull. He was in the water for several hours.

Officers say he was unable to get himself out of the pool, so they put in a set of wooden steps.

The department posted a video of the moose looking back and forth as the team held a rope and coaxed him out. He scampered away.

Col. Kevin Jordan suggests it had to do with it being moose breeding season.

Dog back with owner after gas explosions

NORTH ANDOVER, Mass. (AP) — A dog that disappeared after the chaos of the natural gas explosions and fires in Massachusetts a year ago is back in the arms of its owner.

Altagracia Baldera tells The Eagle-Tribune that when the explosions shook the Merrimack Valley in September 2018 she evacuated her North Andover apartment and went to her sister's house in Lawrence.

On her second day there, her 14-year-old Pekingese-Shih Tzu mix named Virgo bolted out the door. She informed animal control and put posters up.

Then a few days ago, some boys found a small, shaggy dog on the street and reported it to police.

Baldera and Virgo, who was microchipped, were reunited Tuesday.

Tool used to vandalize 'America's Stonehenge'

SALEM (AP) — Police in New Hampshire say it appears someone used a power tool to vandalize a stone at group of rock



Telegraph photo by GRACE PECCI
U.S. Sen. Maggie Hassan, D-N.H., talks government with Dr. Norman W. Crisp Elementary School third-graders during her Thursday visit. The students are currently learning about the three branches of government and were able to ask Hassan questions about her job.

Good talk

Sen. Hassan educates third-graders on government

By GRACE PECCI
Staff Writer

NASHUA — U.S. Sen. Maggie Hassan, D-N.H., may find answering questions from the Washington, D.C. press corps to be a cinch after her Thursday quiz from Dr. Norman W. Crisp Elementary School third-graders.

About 75 third-grade students sat eagerly in Ashlee Cataldo's classroom Thursday morning ready to throw questions at Hassan. The students' questions ranged from what laws she worked on to how many presidents she has met.

Cataldo said all third-grade students are currently learning about the three branches of government: legislative, executive and judicial.

"We've been talking about her legislative branch and making laws. This year we're also focusing on growth mindset and college and career readiness, so for them to see the process that you can do anything is a good thing at an early age," Cataldo said.

She added, "We are really trying to see how we can get an outside perspective into



Telegraph photo by GRACE PECCI
U.S. Sen. Maggie Hassan answers questions about her job.

"We want kids to understand that they can be engaged at an early age – that they have an impact."

U.S. Sen. Maggie Hassan, D-N.H.

the classroom, instead of just saying, 'This is our senator, this is what she does, they can actually hear it from her.'

During her visit, Hassan also shared a lesson of busi-

ness with the students, telling them what will be expected of the future workforce.

"After you're all done with school, some of you will be

HASSAN | PAGE A5

Retired fire chief charged with online solicitation

By DEAN SHALHOUP
Senior Staff Writer

NASHUA – A retired fire chief from Pittsfield was arrested Tuesday by Nashua police, who charged him with three felony offenses stemming from alleged drug possession as well as allegations he used a computer to solicit sex from a person he believed was a 15-year-old boy.

Leonard Deane, 59, Pittsfield, who retired as the town's fire chief about five years ago, was taken into custody around 4:45

p.m. at a Nashua location police didn't identify.

Deane, who was also an EMT during his career, is charged with one count each of certain uses of computer services prohibited and attempted felonious sexual assault, both Class B felonies, and one count of possession of a controlled drug – second offense, a Class A felony.

Judge Charles Temple on Wednesday ordered Deane housed on preventive detention, agreeing with the prosecutor that if Deane were to be released, he would pose a

danger to the community and may present a flight risk.

Attorney Laura Maistrofsky, who represented Deane during Wednesday's bail hearing, asked Temple to set bail at \$500 cash, or \$5,000 cash or surety, noting that Deane "has no history" of computer solicitation offenses and just one conviction on his record – which is a drug-possession charge from Rockingham County Superior Court.

Maistrofsky said she filed Deane's employment history "to show he has

very deep ties to the community," and noted that since he retired, "he has had some struggles."

She said Deane "never failed to show up in court" and agrees to "come back to court for all his hearings."

Temple also ordered to have no contact with anyone under age 16.

The prosecutor, Assistant County Attorney Brett Harpster, read to the court some of the graphic references Deane allegedly made while communicating with the person he believed was

the 15-year-old male.

He was actually communicating with a Nashua police detective in the department's Computer Forensics Unit, according to police reports. Deane made arrangements through online communications to meet the "teen" in Nashua, but when he arrived, he was greeted by officers and taken into custody.

In a post-arrest interview with detectives, Deane admitted to the allegations, Harpster said.

CHIEF | PAGE A5

Garfield not guilty of felony

By DEAN SHALHOUP
Senior Staff Writer

NASHUA – Although a Superior Court jury on Thursday convicted Milford resident Wayne Garfield of a violation-level disorderly conduct charge, the panel acquitted him of the far more serious count of felony criminal threatening with a deadly weapon.

Attorney Amanda Henderson, who represented Garfield with attorney Eleftheria Keans, said her client was sentenced on the disorderly conduct charge immediately after jurors rendered their verdict.

He was ordered to pay a \$500 fine, of which \$400 was suspended, leaving him with a \$100 tab.

The criminal threatening charge accused Garfield of swinging a length of copper pipe at a man during a verbal argument that escalated into the alleged confrontation, according to the lawyers in the case.

The man, who did odd jobs and maintenance work for the couple that managed the apartment building at 514 Nashua St., where Garfield lived at the time, testified that Garfield came after him with what he thought at first was either a tire iron or crow bar.

The item, which the prosecutor, Assistant County Attorney Lisa Drescher, displayed in court on Wednesday, turned out to be a roughly 2-foot-long copper pipe with "elbows" affixed to both ends.

Drescher said Garfield was angry, and displayed that anger by threatening to kill the handyman and by shouting profanities.

"Did he hit you?" Drescher asked. "No," the handyman answered, estimating he and Garfield were about 3 feet from one another.

"He said, 'I'm gonna kill you' several times. He was really upset with me," the handyman added.

But Henderson described a scenario in which Garfield's "neighbors didn't like him from the start ... they disliked him so much they tried to get him out of his apartment," she said.

Garfield, who lived in the basement apartment, often had to deal with water problems, including sewage backup, which he blamed on the managers, who lived upstairs, according to testimony.

Going into trial, the disorderly conduct charge was a Class A misdemeanor, but Judge Jacalyn Colburn granted part of a motion by the defense that lowered it to a violation-level offense.

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Jurors begin deliberations in Hudson man's sex assault trial

By DEAN SHALHOUP
Senior Staff Writer

NASHUA – The young woman with whom Hudson resident Ryan Reese is accused of having sex – despite, as prosecutors insist, the fact she was way too intoxicated to consent or resist – had been drinking, but she was "fine ... aware," "coherent," talking and walking just fine, Reese testified Thursday on the third day of his trial.

"In your testimony, you said (the alleged victim) was sober enough" to consent to the sex acts, Assistant County Attorney Michael Miller asked in cross-examining the now 19-year-old Reese.

"Yes, sir," Reese answered, adding that while it is possible the young woman was drunk, "she wasn't as drunk as they're trying to claim," he said, referring to prosecutors and some of the witnesses who had testified earlier.

As Miller was about to ask his next question, Reese added, "Yes is yes, and no is no. But I was told 'yes,' sir."

So ended the testimony phase of Reese's Superior Court jury trial, which began Tuesday with lawyers' opening statements and brought nearly a dozen witnesses to the stand before the sides rested on Thursday.

REESE | PAGE A5



Telegraph photo by DEAN SHALHOUP
Ryan Reese, who is on trial on sexual assault allegations in Superior Court, answers questions while testifying on the third day of the trial Thursday. The jury will begin its deliberations at 9 a.m. Friday.