

Money

Continued From Page A1

With their monthly budget attached to clipboards, the students, who came dressed to impress, visited various booths where they were met with representatives from various local organizations. They learned some pretty tough lessons about making it in today's world, such as juggling student loan payments, groceries, utilities, clothing costs, rents and mortgages, not to mention entertainment and transportation.

It was financial literacy at its finest.

"They learn to make real-life, adult choices," SCU spokesman Nancy Layton said on Wednesday. "The hope is that they'll end up with some money left over after tackling all their monthly expenses."

The credit union has been sponsoring the fair in conjunction with Woodbury's Family and Consumer Sciences department, for the past several years, though this year is the first the fair has been held locally. In previous years, Salem students were bused to America's Credit Union Museum in Manchester, though schedule conflicts typically meant the event had to take place over the course of two days.

Having the fair within walking distance from the school, with dozens of parent volunteers and representatives from companies such as Public Service of New Hampshire, BJ's Wholesale Club, National Grid and the New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation on hand, means a richer, more true-to-life experience for participating students. "Often times, the kids will come to the fair and they might rethink some of their career goals. They also come to realize what their parents might be going through right now," Layton said.

Learning how life's trappings come with a cost is a lesson teacher Ellyn Burke said she hopes would resonate with her students for years to come.

"They're learning just how much things really cost, and how much money it costs to simply live," Burke said. "I think it definitely makes them appreciate things more."

Having her students gear their monthly "budget" towards their chosen "career" is a much better way to show them the total picture, she noted. For example, students who are considering a career in the military are sometimes

surprised to learn their housing and college tuition costs are often compensated, while a student considering becoming a doctor or lawyer might not initially realize there are such "hidden" costs as skyrocketing student loan payments or the need to maintain a professional wardrobe.

Student Nicholas Pappas said he hopes to become a civil engineer one day, as he's always been interested in "building things and the way things work."

"It makes for a decent living," Nicholas noted. Still, he appeared somewhat dismayed to realize some things cost more than he'd previously considered.

"If I didn't have a roommate, I'd be broke right now," he mused. "I wasn't expecting things to cost this much."

Student Kiley Keenan, who wants to be a news broadcaster when she grows up, couldn't have agreed more.

"It takes a lot of work," she said. "You have to budget in a lot of stuff."

Diane Frost of the Bedford Animal Rescue League spoke to students about the financial burdens and other "real life" concerns that come with pet ownership.

For example, one student who aspires to become a professional athlete, was at loss for words when he realized he'd have to provide for his pet when he traveled for work.

"Often they forget that they need a landlord's permission to own a pet," Frost said. "And even smaller pets, like bunnies, need veterinary care."

Others were in for a reality check when it came to their utility expenses.

"Some of them are really surprised when you tell them they need heat and electricity — they think they can get by on extra blankets," National Grid representative Anna Masiello said. "I ask them if I could take away their Xbox 360, though, and most of them change their minds."

Later, each student had the chance to spin the "Wheel of Reality," where, much like in life, one can be faced with financial loss — or windfall — with the toss of the dice.

That's what student Haley Brust soon learned when the wheel landed her \$100 in the red for a lost cell phone.

"It can be really hard to stay on top of things," she said.

Meske

Continued From Page A1

had threatened to kill her and harm her family if she told anyone about the incidents, according to documents filed at Derry District Court.

Meske was arrested Tuesday by Derry police on two felony counts of aggravated sexual assault.

Court documents do not identify the relationship between Meske and the victim, but the police affidavit does say the woman reported she had been previously sexually assaulted by Meske "numerous" times growing up in Massachusetts before moving to Derry in 2003.

The woman's two sisters, ages 29 and 30, were also interviewed by Derry police as part of the investigation, according to the affidavit. The sisters told detectives that they had also been sexually abused by Meske in Massachusetts beginning when they were between 8 and 10 years old, the affidavit says.

Derry police also interviewed Meske's sister, the affidavit says, who told detectives that she had confronted her brother about "inappropriately touching" one of the

girls 13 years ago. The sister said Meske had admitted to touching her and said he had been "victimized" as a child, according to the affidavit.

Derry police began their investigation into the case on Sunday.

According to the affidavit, the victim was also interviewed this week at the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office in Woburn, Mass.

A spokesman from the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office said Wednesday afternoon that no additional charges had been filed against Meske out of that office. She said she could neither confirm nor deny whether an investigation into the case was ongoing.

In Derry, Meske's bail was raised from \$50,000 cash to \$250,000 cash after Wednesday's arraignment. He is being held at the Rockingham County jail in Brentwood. As conditions of his bail, Meske is prohibited from contact with the alleged victim and anyone else under the age of 18.

Meske will appear in Derry District Court for a probable cause hearing on March 31.

Library

our director to effectively run the library, and have no evidence to question his ability to perform his job. This board will continue to support him and look forward to putting this unpleasant situation behind us," the statement reads.

The charges against Rice date back to 2005 and allege that he bought books, software, DVDs,

and collectible curios that were billed to the city of Revere. The purchased items ended up in Rice's possession or in online auctions on eBay, according to court documents. In some cases, Rice allegedly used city funds to pay for items that were not shipped, then kept the refund checks sent to him by vendors, Conley said.

Wounded Warrior Project reaches out

By DAN TUOHY
New Hampshire Union Leader

MANCHESTER — Tracy Evans suffered heart, leg, neck, spine and traumatic brain injuries when a car bomb detonated while he was on a tour of duty in Iraq in 2004. It took him two years of rehabilitating before he could leave Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

These days, it takes him a minute or two to leave the top of the mountain and schuss down the slopes, something Evans in a mono-ski will delight in this week in the White Mountains as part of the Wounded Warrior Project.

Walmart

tion land near their Ashleigh Drive site in exchange for a \$100,000 payment to the town for the purchase of other conservation land.

Walmart representatives had initially offered the Derry Conservation Commission a 14.5-acre parcel of wetlands behind the project as potential conservation land. But commissioners said they would prefer the \$100,000 payout to purchase other conservation land. Walmart and the commission approved the agreement last month.

Councilors tabled their consideration of the easement at last week's meeting, after Councilor Janet Fairbanks asked that the issue be pushed off until the next meeting on April 5.

Fairbanks said at that meeting that she wanted to see if

"It's great," said Evans, of Adirondack, N.Y. "It's gotten me out of the house."

Supporters and dignitaries welcomed a dozen injured veterans to New Hampshire Wednesday at the sixth annual Wounded Warriors Dinner at Fratello's Restaurant in Manchester.

Nathan Smith, a N.H. National Guardsman who was injured while providing convoy security in Iraq in 2004, said the support through the Wounded Warrior Project makes a big difference. He was shot in his lower right leg. Now, the soldier from Twin Mountain volunteers part-time as an adaptive ski instructor at Bretton Woods.

"I've got limitations, but I find my way to get around OK," Smith said.

Matt Albuquerque, vice president of Next Step Orthotics & Prosthetics, said it is an honor to support the Wounded Warrior Project for the sixth year. They do so with Fratello's, where restaurant staff volunteer to work the dinner event.

"I was hoping it was going to be one or two dinners," he said, referring to the length of combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. "It's important to support and to bring awareness to these soldiers."

Gov. John Lynch and Manchester Mayor Ted Gatsas thanked the veterans for serv-

"I was very disappointed and surprised that they decided to proceed with this even though I was uncomfortable," she said. "I was originally going to go, but I said, no. This is just a power play. They want to show that they are in control and we know that. There's a 5-2 vote and I knew it was a done deal."

Coyle similarly said he decided not to participate in what he called a "waste of time and money."

"This is a meeting that was not necessary, that was called by Neil and Brad because they wanted to show Janet they could do whatever they wanted," said Coyle. "There was no hurry to do it. They just wanted to have a special meeting to teach a lesson to Janet and, I guess, to me. I decided that I would rather play basketball with my son."

Tenor

So when Bob Clegg of Hudson told Kearns about a local charity working to support American troops overseas, the tenor jumped at the chance to help.

"I live in Ireland, but I travel all the states to make my living and I'm very thankful for that," said Kearns, 39, a founding member of the Irish Tenors and a successful solo artist.

"You take for granted the way we get around in this country and the peace and comfort we have in our lives," he said. "We have to stop and remember those who are away from their homes and their families defending peace, not just for America but around the globe."

Kearns has performed as

part of many charitable events, including performances for the Wounded Warriors program and a recent USO/ThanksUSA benefit at the New Zealand Embassy.

And tonight, Kearns will bring his efforts to Promises to Keep in Derry in support of MooreMart, a Nashua-based nonprofit group that sends supplies and care packages to American troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Clegg, a former state senator who serves on the MooreMart Resource Team, met with Kearns backstage after one of his concerts in December. He said the tenor was immediately interested in supporting MooreMart and later tracked him down

to ensure the charity event was moving forward.

"For an Irish citizen, (Kearns) seems to have a really soft spot for American troops," Clegg said. "It's really nice to see that they are appreciated around the world."

MooreMart has sent more than 35,000 packages to New Hampshire troops overseas in the past six years, Clegg said, many including school supplies, toys and clothing for local children along with personal items for the soldiers themselves.

And to fill those boxes, he said, the volunteer-run group largely relies on donations and fundraising projects, like tonight's event.

Tickets for the show are \$50

ing, and New Hampshire's congressional delegation welcomed them to the Granite State. U.S. Rep. Frank Guinta, R-N.H., said it was reassuring to see such great New Hampshire support for troops and veterans.

"Our Wounded Warriors are our heroes," Guinta said.

The veterans will be skiing through this weekend at Bretton Woods, Loon, and Waterville Valley.

The dozen veterans honored Wednesday night were Bill Biondolillo, Erik Burneister, Ferris Butler, Brent Cote, Tracy Evans, Aron Howell, Tanner Kuth, Gary Nolte, Anthony Semprun, Pam Smejkal, Nate Smith, and Heriberto Vitro.

Continued From Page A1

With final approval out of the way, Conservation Commission Chairman Margaret Ives said last night that the commission will begin looking at how it will spend that money as soon as its next meeting on Monday.

"We always have some things on our lists, but we need to review those," said Ives after the meeting. "This will probably not pay for an entire (parcel), but it will help."

The approval will now allow Walmart developers to focus on their return to the Planning Board next month to seek site plan approval.

"It's always good to see," said Peter Imse, an attorney representing the project. "In any approval process like this there's a whole series of steps along the way, and we need to take all of them."

Continued From Page A1

or \$80 for two people.

The program begins at 5:30 p.m. with a cocktail reception, followed by Kearns' performance at 6:15 p.m. Promises to Keep is located at 199 Rockingham Road in Derry.

And with a capacity of about 200 people, Clegg said he hopes the location will provide a uniquely intimate show.

"This will give people an opportunity to see and hear (Kearns) in a venue that's almost like being alone," he said. "It's not being in the middle of 3,000 people. It's up close, and he's very personable. I think people are going to really enjoy him."

For tickets or more information, contact mooremarttickets@gmail.com.

Danville

The men were arrested by the state Fire Marshal's Office on Tuesday night after an investigation into the fire by the fire marshal, and the local police and fire departments.

The three are accused of igniting two 40-ounce glass bottles filled with lighter fluid and tossing them at a garage attached to the home of Allan and Donna Blaney, according to police complaints.

During a video arraignment Wednesday in Salem District Court, Assistant County Attorney Brian Lee told a judge that the arson case appears to stem from a confrontation on Jan. 7 in Hampstead between the three men and two brothers, Michael and William Blaney.

The Danville residence attacked by Molotov cocktails is the home of the Blaneys' parents, but it wasn't clear whether Michael and William still live there.

Lee said there are allegations that Balamotis brandished a silver handgun at Michael Blaney during the Hampstead inci-

dent; the gun has since been turned over to authorities.

According to Lee, Balamotis had another run-in with William Blaney in Plaistow on Feb. 18. In that case, Balamotis allegedly stabbed Blaney in the neck in the parking lot of a Meineke Car Care Center.

Lee told the court that Balamotis, who hasn't been charged in the Plaistow incident, has claimed he acted in self defense.

But Balamotis faces more trouble in Kingston. In an unrelated case, Kingston police arrested him earlier this month on a second-degree assault charge after he allegedly sliced a man's face, head and ear by smashing a glass bottle over his head outside a Kingston apartment on March 5. The victim received 17 stitches as a result of the injuries, police said. In an affidavit, witnesses told police that the victim was walking to his apartment when Balamotis, who was standing outside in the parking lot with several others, hit him over the head.

In the Danville firebombing case, Balamotis and Sawyer each face felony charges of arson, use of a Molotov cocktail, reckless conduct, and three counts of conspiracy.

Reed is charged with accomplice to arson, accomplice to use of a Molotov cocktail, accomplice to reckless conduct, and three counts of conspiracy. All six charges are felonies.

Reed is accused of driving the trio to an Xtra Mart in Plaistow to buy the lighter fluid before heading to Danville to carry out the firebombing. Lee said surveillance video showed Balamotis buying the fluid.

On the night of the fire, authorities said, Allan Blaney happened to look out the window,

spotted the car and then noticed someone running down the driveway. He then saw a flickering light and called 911. No one was hurt.

The three men were each ordered held at the Rockingham County jail on \$100,000 cash bail or surety.

Affidavits in the case have been sealed as the investigation continues.

"We take any fire very seriously because it has the potential to cause loss of life," said Deputy State Fire Marshal Max Schultz.

Balamotis, Reed and Sawyer are due back in Plaistow District Court on May 16.

Balamotis is also scheduled to appear in court April 25 in the Kingston assault case.

Continued From Page A1

Network.

Revere city officials launched an investigation into the library's financial records in 2009 after an audit turned up "questionable purchases."

Revere police were brought into the investigation, assisted by New England State Police Information Network and an outside accountant.

Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Benjamin Goldberger of Conley's Special Prosecutions Unit led the grand jury investigation, which followed an investigation by Revere police detectives, an audit by accountants retained by the City of Revere, and financial records analysis by the New England State Police Information

Injured in an Accident?

- **Automobile and motorcycle** accident attorney
- **Hard work** on your behalf
- Insurance company **intervention**
- **Over 25 years** experience
- **Successful recoveries** for hundreds of injured accident victims
- **FREE consultations** - Evening and weekend appointments

Attorney Gary Casinghino

180 Bridge St., Manchester, N.H.

603-669-6111 or 1-888-988-6111