

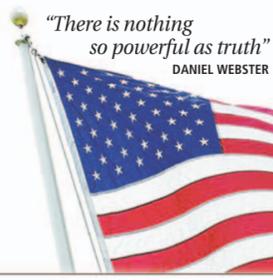
Ice-Out?

Not even close | B1



NH Weekend

Manchester celebrates St. Patrick | Inside



NEW HAMPSHIRE UNION LEADER

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DERRY/LONDON DERRY EDITION • YOUR LOCAL NEWS FIRST

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Library trustees stand by director despite indictment

◆ **Pelham:** Robert Rice, 45, is accused of stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars from his previous employer, the Revere (Mass.) Public Library.

By **CAROL ROBIDOUX**
Union Leader Correspondent

PELHAM — Despite a 21-count indictment against Pelham Public Library Director

Robert Rice stemming from his previous job at a Massachusetts library, town officials here not only stand by him but continue to give him high marks. Last week, a Massachusetts

grand jury handed up the 21-count indictment charging Rice, former director of the Revere Public Library, with stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars by purchasing items with city funds and either keeping them or selling them and pocketing the proceeds, District Attorney Daniel F. Conley said.

The indictment charges Rice,

45, of Rowley, Mass., with three counts of larceny over \$250, three counts of embezzlement by a city officer, and 15 counts of procurement fraud. All of the offenses are felonies. Rice is expected to be arraigned on the charges in Suffolk Superior Court on April 1.

On Tuesday, Pelham Library Trustee Chairman Fran Graboski said he did not expect

a balanced portrayal of the situation involving Rice to be made in the public arena.

A statement issued by the trustees said the board was surprised by the recent action against Rice by Revere library officials.

"When we hired Bob in October 2009, we were aware there were issues regarding his prior position. Nevertheless, we were

satisfied with his explanation, and his references were excellent. Bob's service to the Pelham Public Library has been nothing short of exemplary. All of our financial matters are accurate to the penny, and our financial reports are open to public review at any time. We have complete confidence in

► See **Library**, Page A12

Firebomb attack leads to arrests

◆ **Danville:** Three area men are being held on \$100,000 bail each.

By **JASON SCHREIBER**
Union Leader Correspondent

DANVILLE — Prosecutors say three men attempted to firebomb a Danville home using Molotov cocktails last month as part of a pattern of escalating violence following a drug deal gone bad.

Ryan Sawyer, 20, of 5 Kimberly Road, Kingston; Jonathan Balamotis, 19, of 31 Pollard Road, Plaistow; and Ryan Reed, 19, of 10 Kathryn's Way, Sandown, face a long list of felony charges stemming from the arson fire on Feb. 23 at 34 Beach Plain Road.

► See **Danville**, Page A12

Irish singer steps up to help troops

◆ **Anthony Kearns:** Founding member of the Irish Tenors will perform tonight at Promises to Keep to benefit MooreMart.

By **CHELSEY POLLOCK**
Union Leader Correspondent

DERRY — While Irish Tenor Anthony Kearns was born across the pond, he says his time touring in the United States has given him an appreciation for the freedoms state-side.

► See **Tenor**, Page A12

“Some of them are really surprised when you tell them they need heat and electricity — they think they can get by on extra blankets.”

ANNA MASIELLO
National Grid representative



APRIL GUILMET

Kiley Kennan, a Salem eighth-grader who hopes to one day work as a news broadcaster, lucked out when a spin of the "Wheel of Reality" earned her a \$250 "bonus."

LEARNING TO GET BY

◆ **Salem:** Eighth-graders get a taste of what their financial futures might be like and in the process gain a new understanding of what their parents might be going through.

By **APRIL GUILMET**
Union Leader Correspondent

SALEM

In the game called life, there can be many unexpected twists and turns.

As part of Service Credit Union's CU 4 Reality Education program, eighth-graders from Woodbury School had a chance to experience such reality firsthand, during a Financial Education Fair held at the Salem Boys & Girls Club on Wednesday.

In the days leading up to the fair, each of the school's 400 or so eighth-graders were asked to select a profession of their choice, and given an annual "salary" to work with.

► See **Money**, Page A12

COMING MONDAY: FINANCIAL LITERACY, PART 3

Since the 1980s, New Hampshire has required students to take one economics course before graduating from high school. Some schools go one step further by requiring personal finance courses that cover budgeting, credit, and other keystones of personal financial literacy. Still, however, some educators say New Hampshire may be shortchanging its students in the way it teaches economics. Our Financial Literacy series continues Monday, in print editions.



Financial Literacy

A Union Leader Series

Walmart land deal approved

◆ **Derry:** Councilors vote in favor of an easement that will allow construction on conservation land.

By **CHELSEY POLLOCK**
Union Leader Correspondent

DERRY — In less than 15 minutes, the five town councilors present at last night's special meeting unanimously approved a conservation easement crucial to the Walmart project on Ashleigh Drive. The item had been tabled from a meeting last week.

"I think the Conservation Commission did their homework on this," said Council Vice Chairman Neil Wetherbee, who called for the special meeting. "I was out there for the site walk with them, and this is a win-win for the town."

The easement allows Walmart to build on about 2.5 acres of conserva-

► See **Walmart**, Page A12

Derry man accused of sex assault

◆ **Robert Meskell Sr.:** Police say the 46-year-old assaulted the 29-year-old victim twice.

By **CHELSEY POLLOCK**
Union Leader Correspondent

DERRY — A Derry man is being held on \$250,000 cash bail for two separate sexual assaults against a 29-year-old woman earlier this month, police said.

The woman also told police that Robert P. Meskell Sr., 46, of 67 Drew Road in Derry



MESKELL

► See **Meskell**, Page A12

REGULAR FEATURES

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Lifestyles.....B7	Weather.....D18

A Small Prayer

May we get on the good side, Lord, and get on Your side. Amen

Today's Chuckle

You can't climb to the top of the corporate ladder without getting a few splinters along the way.

New Hampshire Union Leader

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Today IN NEW HAMPSHIRE'S NEWSPAPER

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Bill hikes lake speed limit

The Senate agreed Wednesday by the slimmest of margins to increase the speed limit in a large section of Lake Winnepesaukee known as the Broads. The bill now goes to the House. ► Page A3

BUSINESS

Southwest Airlines: Bright future

In an industry plagued by bankruptcies and failures, Southwest Airlines has stood apart with 38 years of profitability, CEO Gary Kelly says. ► Page B3

Home sales stay weak

Sales of new U.S. homes sank to a record low in Feb-

ruary and prices were the weakest in just over seven years. ► Page B4

NATION/WORLD

Tokyo issues water warning

Tokyo residents were warned not to give babies tap water because of radiation leaking from a nuclear plant crippled in the earthquake and tsunami. ► Page A5

SPORTS

Get ready for NCAA Northeast

Expect a large contingent of Merrimack fans on hand Saturday at the Verizon Wireless Arena when the Warriors play Notre Dame at 7:30 p.m. Top-seeded Miami (Ohio) University faces host New Hampshire at 4. ► Page D1

Today's Letters: Page A11

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A tribute to Liz Taylor

Accolades pour in after the death of the lavender-eyed film icon. ► Page D18