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DANIEL WEBSTER

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Board balks at leeway given student miscreants

THERE WAS the eighth-grader who got caught with a knife and had violated the district's code of conduct on 29 previous occasions over the past year. There was the ninth-grader caught with marijuana for the fourth time who had amassed 60 prior offenses. There was the sixth-grader who threatened school staff members and had 50 previous offenses.

City Hall

Ted Siefer



What do these Manchester School District students have in common? They were all allowed to escape expulsion and return to school. This had several members

of the Board of School Committee up in arms last week. "I will say when I got this, I was astounded," said committee member **Debra Gagnon Langton** at Monday's meeting, referring to a chart providing a breakdown of the outcomes of 39 serious disciplinary cases over the past school year. "To find 80 percent of students referrals don't go before the expulsion com-

mittee," Gagnon Langton said to Superintendent **Thomas Brennan**. "I'd like see you more often delegate this task to the committee." That would be the Committee on Student Conduct, which Gagnon Langton chairs and is responsible for meting out the most serious disciplinary action short of criminal

► See **City Hall**, Page A3

Obama slams GOP ticket in NH visit

◆ **Windham rally:** President calls his political rivals' economic plan "trickle-down snake oil."

By **JULIE HANSON**
Sunday News Correspondent

WINDHAM — President Barack Obama told voters they had a clear choice between two very different visions for America during his appearance at Windham High School on Saturday morning.



The event drew about 2,300 people, according to the Windham Fire Department. Cars lined London Bridge Road hours before the President's scheduled appearance.

President Barack Obama shakes hands in Windham on Saturday. For a story about his Rochester visit and the response from the Romney camp, see Page A10.

BRUCE PRESTON / UNION LEADER

Chants of "four more years" filled the gymnasium as an upbeat crowd waited for the President to arrive.

Audience members joined in as Windham resident Emma Joanis, 12, sang the national anthem. The President was greeted by cheering and applause when he took the stage.

Obama told the crowd that the choices made in this election will affect their children, grandchildren and future generations. He ran in 2008 to restore the party and create opportunity for people to work hard, own a home, have access to health care, provide educational opportuni-

► See **Obama**, Page A10

Problems in sharing arrest data cited after fatality

◆ **Communication system delayed:** A prosecutor says he might have taken other action had a Bedford driver's complete record been available before a deadly crash.

By **NANCY WEST**
New Hampshire Sunday News

Had it been up and running as intended, a statewide data-sharing system could have alerted authorities to concerns about a Bedford teen's driving record before the young man was at the wheel when a car crash killed his passenger three weeks ago in Manchester.

But the system — J-ONE, for Justice-One Network Environment, which will enable law enforcement, the courts and corrections to share instant, real-time offender information from arrest to parole — isn't close to completion after more than a decade of work and millions of dollars spent, officials said.

Last week, Goffstown police Capt. Kerry Steckowych said

► See **Arrest database**, Page A8

Festive weekend



Above, Lidia Rodriguez of Manchester prepares gorditas at the Latino Festival on Saturday at Veterans Memorial Park in Manchester. At right, Mikalah Somers, 3, of Laconia feeds hay to a camel at the Mahrajan Middle Eastern festival at Our Lady of the Cedars Church in Manchester. For stories and photos, including some from Greekfest, see Page B1.

JOSH GIBNEY PHOTOS/UNION LEADER



Companies competing to build prison turn to lobbyists

◆ **\$130,000 spent:** The money, about \$100,000 of which came from one developer, is part of an effort to sway state decision makers.

By **MICHAEL COUSINEAU**
New Hampshire Sunday News

CONCORD — Three out-of-state companies vying to build a new men's prison in New Hampshire have paid more than

\$130,000 in lobbyist fees to three Concord firms to win support for their proposal, according to state records.

Corrections Corporation of America, based in Nashville, Tenn., outpaced its rivals, providing more than \$101,000 to the Rath, Young and Pignatelli law firm since 2011, according to a New Hampshire Sunday News review of lobbyist income and expense reports.

"Generally speaking, because governments are our partners, we obviously edu-

cate through government relations," CCA spokesman Mike Machak said in an email. "It's how we transparently share information about the services and solutions we provide and make sure we're up to date on any specific needs they may have."

The law firm, which includes a section devoted to government relations, reported it spent all \$101,729.85 it collected in lobbying fees from CCA since 2011.

► See **Prison**, Page A5

Artificial eye lost; strangers offer help

◆ **Laconia girl:** A Bedford company will replace the prosthetic for free, and a trust fund will help with future needs.

By **BILL SMITH**
New Hampshire Union Leader

LACONIA — People she doesn't even know have come together to help a 10-year-old girl replace the artificial eye she has used since she was tot.

Jennifer Miller, 10, was in a river in Laconia when she lost the prosthetic eye.

"I was swimming, and all the pressure going on it made it pop out," Jennifer said last night in a phone interview.

The community came together quickly to raise the money to pay for a new artificial eye. It costs several

thousand dollars. "I think that's very nice of them," Jennifer told the New Hampshire Sunday News.

A Bedford ocular laboratory heard about the girl's plight and donated its services to replace the prosthetic. The funds being raised will be placed

in a trust to pay for the replacement prosthetic eyes that Jennifer will need as she grows, since her family doesn't have insurance that will cover the cost. "It's amazing, it's just absolutely amazing that so many have turned out to help," said Christine Jenot, a cous-

in-law. "It's just absolutely amazing that so many have turned out to help," said Christine Jenot, a cousin.

► See **Eye**, Page A8

Today IN NEW HAMPSHIRE'S NEWSPAPER



Today's Letters:
Page B2

REGULAR FEATURES

City Hall.....	A3	NH Preview TV, A&E 22-23	
Dear Abby.....	A3	Obituaries.....	B6-9
Doctors.....	F10	Pop Culture.....	TV, A&E 2
Dog Tracks.....	F10	Puzzles.....	F5
Harrigan.....	B1	State House Dome.....	A2
Legals.....	B5	Television.....	TV, A&E 5-18
Lotteries.....	A2	Weather.....	D8
Markets Review.....	D7	Weddings.....	F11

New Hampshire Sunday News

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

Fewer arson cases probed

A year after a rash of fires in Manchester prompted an aggressive attack on arson, the rate of cases being referred to the city's fire investigation unit has dropped by more than a third. ► **Page B4**

BUSINESS

Beyond snow

With the ski season fast approaching, resort operators are improving their properties to prepare for the winter and extend their reach by adding year-round attractions, such as ziplines. ► **Page D1**

POLITICS

Democrats meet at forum

Democratic candidates for governor Jackie Gilley and Bill Kennedy met with a friendly crowd at a Stoddard event at Lakefalls Lodge on Saturday afternoon. Maggie Hassan's absence was duly noted by the other candidates. ► **Page A2**

LIFESTYLES

Game on

A team of New Hampshire Guardsmen has adopted the sport of hurling. It helps keep them healthy and in touch with each other, the team's leader says. ► **Page F6**

NEW CONTEST COMING

Find the Checkered Flag!

If you're enjoying our Find the Baseballs contest each week in the New Hampshire Sunday News, you'll love this announcement. For three weeks beginning Aug. 26, we'll place checkered flags — like the one shown here — randomly throughout the pages of your Sunday paper. Find all the flags and submit your tally using our print or online entry form, and you could win. There will be two prizes each week. The first grand-prize winner will receive two tickets to the Sylvania 300 NASCAR race on Sunday, Sept. 23. The second winner each week will receive two tickets to the Short Track Saturday slate of races on Sept. 22. Contest rules will be identical to those for the Find the Baseballs contest. To see a copy of the rules, go to www.unionleader.com/baseballcontest.



Eye

in who organized a fundraising supper Saturday night.

Jennifer lost her natural eye to a tumor when she was very young. The girl, her four siblings and her parents live in Laconia. Their only income is the Social Security benefits and military pension of the girl's father, Wayne Miller, a U.S. Army veteran who is disabled because of a major stroke a couple of years ago.

Jennifer's mother, Heidi, devotes her days to her husband's care and has had serious medical problems recently that family members believe may be due to a contaminated water supply at the family residence.

Word of Jennifer's situation spread fast, and help came quickly from all segments of the community, beginning soon after the prosthetic was swept away in the Winnepesaukee River.

Friends helped her search the water, and members of the Laconia police dive team turned out on their own time in an ultimately vain attempt to find the eye.

After it became apparent that the eye could not be found, the

community came together to raise money to pay for a new artificial eye.

The spaghetti supper fundraiser was organized in a week's time. Some who have offered help have virtually nothing to give. "I have had people calling that have no income at all and asking if they can donate one box of pasta," Jenot said. "I am right on their doorstep to get it."

Participants in today's Timberland Ironman competition in nearby Gilford were encouraged to take their pre-game meal at the dinner Saturday night. Service organizations and residents have made cash donations to a trust fund that was established in a local bank.

And while the Elks Hall in Laconia was being set up for the spaghetti dinner, a father-daughter oculist team based in Bedford said they'd provide the artificial eye and donate services for fitting and care.

After hearing of the girl's plight, Lindsey Kazanovicz-Boyle, a graduate of Manchester's Trinity High School who works with her father, Peter Kazanovicz, at the Studley Ocular

Laboratories, took to Facebook to volunteer their services.

"When I saw that she hadn't been wearing a prosthetic eye for two weeks, I was really concerned because that has long-term effects," Kazanovicz-Boyle said. "That's what we do, and she obviously needs one."

The girl will be in Bedford on Tuesday morning for a fitting at the Studley lab. They will also fit Jennifer for a cover, a place-holding device inserted into the eye socket to make sure that it does not close while a new prosthetic is fabricated.

"Without a prosthetic eye, she is wide open for infection," Jenot said.

Since Jennifer is still a pre-teen, the artificial eye will have to be exchanged again as she matures.

"As she grows, she is going to need a total of five more eyes, so any money left in the trust fund will be used for that," Jenot said.

Donations to the fund can be made care of the Jennifer Miller fund, Meredith Village Savings Bank, 393 S. Main St. Laconia 03046.

usmith@unionleader.com

Arrest database

he wouldn't have allowed the dismissal of a speeding charge against Ian Bolser, 19, the driver in the July 28 fatality, to be finalized had he known Bolser was also driving a car that crashed June 10 in Manchester and had faced charges related to traffic stops in Hooksett and Bedford in March and April.

"I would have filed a motion to bring the (speeding) case forward ... for trial," Steckowych told the Sunday News. Then he could have sought a fine, license suspension and community service for Bolser, Steckowych said.

"It's sad that somebody ended up dying in this particular incident," Steckowych said. "Who knows how any of these other cases could have impacted that if we had been able to effectively share the information."

None of the charges in Hooksett and Bedford had resulted in a conviction, so they didn't appear on Bolser's record, Steckowych said. Had the J-ONE system been operating, those charges would have likely been immediately available to law enforcement regardless.

The Goffstown speeding charge was dismissed on July 17, 11 days before the fatal crash, Steckowych said, when it appeared Bolser had been of good behavior for six months as required to drop the charge. Instead, Bolser had been arrested in Hooksett and Bedford during that period.

Bedford police had arrested Bolser on April 29 on a charge of transportation of alcohol by a minor. Police reported he had cash and drug paraphernalia in his possession at the time. That charge was dropped at trial July 24, four days before the fatal crash, according to court records.

In Hooksett, Bolser was scheduled for trial on June 18 on charges of possession of a controlled drug, transporting a controlled drug and speeding stemming from a March 31 traffic stop, Sunday News reported last week. The newspaper said a court clerk said a bench warrant was issued for Bolser when he failed to show

up for the court date.

"We were not aware of anything pending in Bedford or Hooksett or anything that happened in Manchester," Steckowych said.

Andrew Roy killed

Bolser didn't return calls Friday or Saturday, but a week earlier told the New Hampshire Sunday News he had not been drinking before the 6:45 a.m. crash on Interstate 293 July 28 that killed Andrew Roy, 19, of Bedford. Bolser told police he was driving friends home from Hampton Beach, where they had gone the night before. Roy died at the crash scene.

Bolser told the newspaper he fell asleep at the wheel and that police told him his blood tested negative for alcohol and drugs after the crash. State police Sgt. Paul Hunt, who previously said the investigation would be finished last week, didn't return repeated calls.

Although the state started work on the J-ONE system in 2001, it is a long way from being fully operational, according to Deputy Attorney General Ann Rice.

Someone can still be arrested and post bail in the North Country, and that information will not be immediately available to police in southern New Hampshire, Rice said.

If someone is on probation or parole, that is also not always readily available, she said.

Complex project

So far, only little pieces of J-ONE are working, she said. It has taken a long time because it is an extremely complex project, Rice said.

"They are trying to create an integrated communications system and connect all sorts of different hardware and software in an integrated network," Rice said.

The project has different phases, she said. "A couple have come online, but there is a whole long way to go," Rice said.

State Rep. John Tholl, R-Whitefield, a retired state trooper, acknowledged that

police sometimes operate in the dark during police stops because J-ONE isn't online.

"Now a guy can be convicted of DWI, walk out of the courtroom, get stopped, and if it is within 30 days, it will still show he has a valid license," he said.

Last September, the U.S. Department of Justice provided a \$985,000 grant to expand the J-ONE system to include a notification process for victims, but that's not up and running yet, according to Keith Lohmann, J-ONE's program manager.

The project was allocated a total of about \$10 million in federal funds, and so far roughly \$2.5 million has been spent, he said. Lohmann said \$5 million is under contract, and he expects the entire system will be operational sometime in fiscal year 2014 or 2015.

In 2008, the New Hampshire Union Leader reported that J-ONE got a \$2.9 million federal grant in 2004, but the money sat around so long that the grant was set to expire when the Executive Council approved two big contracts, \$1.5 million for the police end of the system and \$868,000 more for work at the court system. Lohmann said he didn't know what caused that delay. "That was before my time," Lohmann said.

Assistant Safety Commissioner Earl Sweeney said the delay has mostly been due to the complexity of the effort and the limited resources that could be applied to it.

"The (Department of Information Technology) has been doing its best, but while all of this is going on, other state agencies have had their own priorities," Sweeney said.

The information processing world changes so rapidly and is in such a constant state of flux with so many disparate players that it causes fits and starts in any program that tries to interconnect them all, Sweeney said.

"Courts and corrections had to modernize their information systems to meet their own needs and priorities and cope with budget crises, and while these were ongoing, J-ONE has had to work around them," Sweeney said.

Local and county agencies have also made changes to their information systems for similar reasons, Sweeney said.

"People scoffed when told that J-ONE might prove to be a decades-long effort, but it is turning into just that," he said.

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In Brief

2 men assaulted in separate incidents

MANCHESTER — Police are searching for whomever assaulted two Manchester men in separate incidents early Saturday.

Hassan Abdullahi, 26, was found unconscious, lying in a

large pool of blood from a serious, but not life-threatening, head injury after an altercation in the parking lot of Club Raxx on Elm Street shortly after midnight Saturday, Police Lt. James Soucy said.

Abdullahi was taken to Elliot Hospital for treatment, he said.

Two hours later, police responded to Elliot Hospital

for a man who was brought there by family members after suffering a superficial, inch-deep stab wound during an altercation at Club Realm on Amherst Street, Soucy said.

He said the man would say only that he'd received the injury at the club.

"We're investigating it, but unfortunately he's very uncooperative," Soucy said.

Laconia man robbed in his apartment

LACONIA — Police are searching for a man wearing dark clothes and a ski mask who robbed another man at knifepoint in a Pearl Street apartment about 1:15 a.m. Saturday, according to a news release. Anyone with information is asked to call police at 524-5252 or the Laconia Crimeline at 524-1717.

SUPER SALE



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