

Concord
Theatre

aled as developer
claim tax credits;
plans midsize venue

CAITLIN ANDREWS
Monitor staff

s weren't the only ones
take advantage of last
ies before the new year
lopers got in on the ac-

cord Theatre was sold
483,533 to New Concord
C, a holding of Concord
veloper Steve Duprey,
the Merrimack County
Deeds.

chase wasn't a late
resent, but a necessary
ke the \$5.2 million the-
zation project eligible for
redits, Duprey said -
illion worth, to be more

6 million to \$2 million of
t could come from new
redits, a program that
ped to attract develop-
historically underserved
l communities. The pro-

SEE THEATER A2

NORTHERN PASS

kers talk
efits in
al brief

PATRICK WHITTLE
associated Press

rs of one of the most de-
transmission projects in
hire history say approval
ct is essential for eco-
energy development in
their final brief filed to
ite Evaluation Commit-

ers of the \$1.6 billion
ass hydropower project

SEE NORTHERN PASS A10.



AFTERNOON MIST

ool off early. High 36,
Cooper, 5, of Concord
y. Page A10

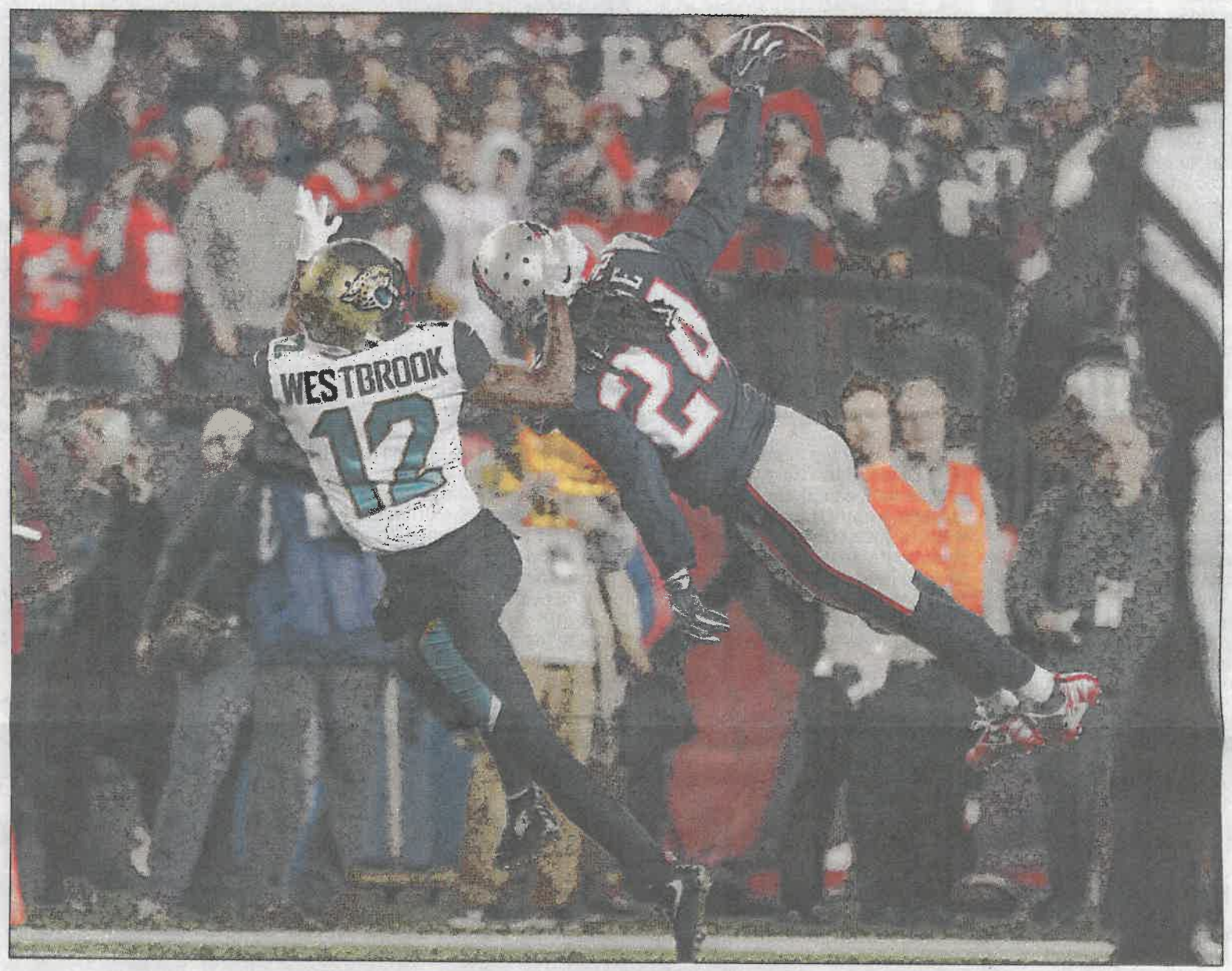
- A3 Movies B10
- B9 Nation&World A6
- 37, B9 Obituaries A4
- A9 Sports B1
- A5 Sudoku B7
- A8 TV B8



drama



the second
half of the AFC
championship
game Sunday.
AP photos



New England Patriots comeback Stephon Gilmore (24) breaks up a fourth-down pass intended for Jacksonville Jaguars wide receiver Dede Westbrook during the fourth quarter of the AFC championship game Sunday in Foxborough, Mass.

Pats claim AFC title in game fit for the silver screen

It felt scripted, like pro wrestling. As if some writer decided Sunday's AFC championship game needed a plot-twisting challenge for the Patriots that lived up to last year's 25-point Super Bowl deficit and comeback.

So Tom Brady's hand was maimed and bloodied in Wednesday's practice. His top weapon, larger-than-life Rob Gronkowski, was knocked out in the first half by the menacing Jacksonville defense. Whipping boy Blake Bortles was playing the game of his life and the Jaguars, the once-laughable Jags, were leading the NFL's bullies by 10 points in the fourth quarter.

The setup was creative and unique, but the ending remained the same - Brady and the Patriots cleared all the crazy hurdles to claim a 24-20 win and another trip to another Super Bowl.

As it turned out, the amazing



TIM O'SULLIVAN
Monitor sports

game needed more than one script writer. It needed an entire team.

"Coach says it's all about our story and what this team can do. We had to write our own story," Brady told a buzzing Gillette Stadium during the post-game trophy presentation for the AFC champs. "It took every player that played in the game, every

SEE PATRIOTS A2



New England Patriots wide receiver Danny Amendola (80) celebrates his touchdown catch beside guard Joe Thuney on Sunday in Foxborough, Mass.

SPORTS

MORE FROM THE AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

- New England stages another playoff comeback, **B1**
- Wide receiver Amendola makes key catches in Patriots' win, **B4**

Black Ice hockey tournament gets youngbloods involved



CAITLIN ANDREWS
Downtown

Mite-level players to have their own segment in outdoor event

You've felt it in your bones for weeks: Black Ice is upon us. The 1883 Black Ice Pond Hockey Championships, now in its eighth year, has not so much crept into Concord - unlike the icy cold we've been experiencing - but bloomed in all the usual places. Anyone walk-

ing through downtown has surely noticed the blue banners rippling on the light posts and strung across the North Main/Centre streets intersection and the posters in partnering businesses' windows.

And this week, the tournament will be encouraging a different kind of growth, Black Ice board Chairman Chris Brown said. Specifically, a bunch of mites will be on their own sheet of ice,



The black ice pond hockey tournament last year.

NICK STOICO / Monitor file

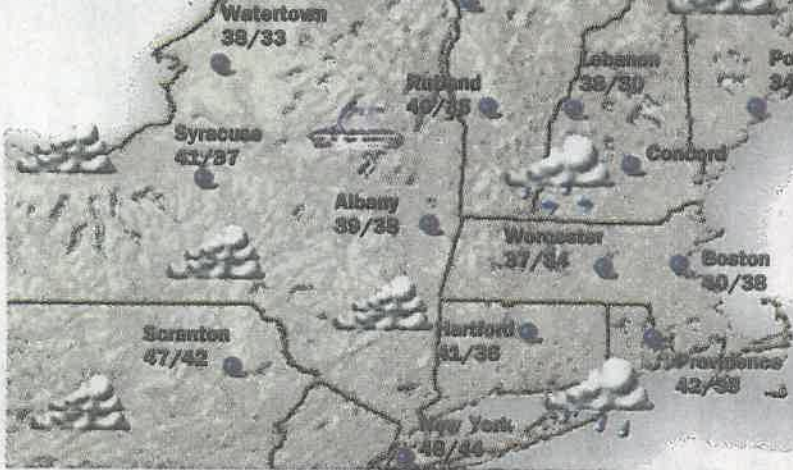
honing their skills and hopefully developing into the next generation of puck lovers with their roots in hometown hockey.

If the word "mites" has you picturing a new breed

of arctic insect invading your snow boots, don't worry - "mites" is an age group of youth hockey, said Jeff Cain, house league co-

SEE DOWNTOWN A10

24 hrs ending 8 p.m. yesterday: 2.25"
 Month to date: 2.25"
 Normal month to date: 1.22"
 Year to date: 2.25"
 Normal year to date: 1.82"
 Relative Humidity
 High: 82%
 Low: 71%



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018

Weather History

A record 17.4-inch snowfall on Jan. 22, 1902, in Buffalo, N.Y., was dwarfed by 30 inches in Philadelphia, Pa., on Jan. 8, 1996.

Weather Trivia™

Q: Do all snowflakes have six sides?

Sun and Moon

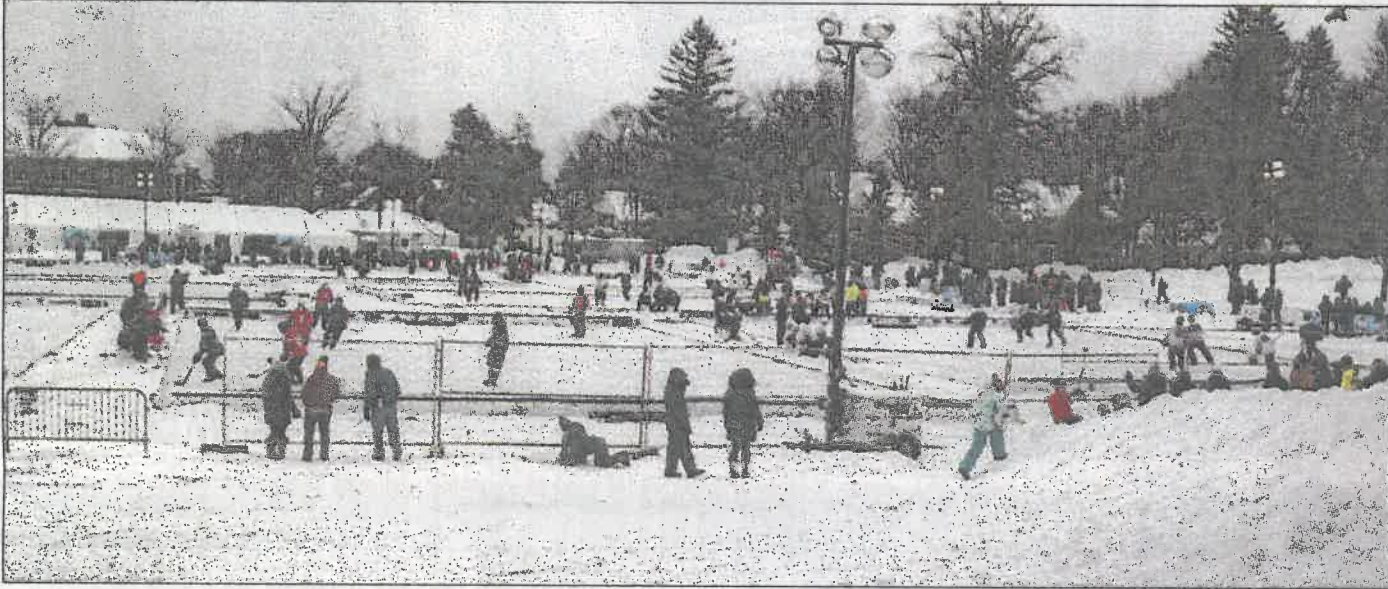
Rise today: 7:11 a.m.
 Sunset tonight: 4:45 p.m.
 Moonrise today: 10:09 a.m.
 Moonset today: 10:25 p.m.



The Nation

City	Today			Tue.			Today		
	HI	Lo	W	HI	Lo	W	HI	Lo	W
Atlanta	67	43	t	54	33	s	60	40	sh
Boston	40	38	r	53	36	r	48	44	sh
Chicago	53	31	r	34	24	sf	81	65	pc
Dallas	61	36	s	61	34	s	64	40	s
Detroit	46	37	r	39	24	sf	49	40	c
Honolulu	82	72	s	83	72	pc	59	31	c
Indianapolis	53	34	r	36	25	sf	67	46	s
Las Vegas	55	39	s	60	39	s	48	39	c
Louisville	58	40	t	41	30	c	62	35	s

(W) weather: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thundr, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, Hce.



The scene at the Black Ice Pond Hockey tournament at White Park at last year's event. This year's tourney is set to feature mite-level skaters honing their skills on the open-air rink.

Mites to hit the rink for Black Ice tournament

DOWNTOWN FROM A1
 Coordinator for Concord Youth Hockey and coach of the Dynamites practice team. Mites are about 5 or 6 years old, and on Saturday, they and other members of Concord Youth Hockey will get their own "shinny" tournament. Thursday and Friday will also feature skating nights for youth members.



Skaters dig the puck out at Concord's Black Ice Pond Hockey tournament last year at White Park.

Brown said supporting youth sports has always been part of Black Ice's mission. The board makes a point of encouraging local sports teams, not just hockey teams, to come down and volunteer, and offers fundraising opportunities for booster clubs. But it wasn't until this year that the board was able to focus on integrating children into the actual tournament.

"The first seven years, getting kids to come down and play was an afterthought," he said, noting that previous years have been hampered by last-minute warm weather conditions. "This year we took a risk and said, 'Let's just plan on it, and if we don't have the ice, we don't have the ice.'"

It's all in good fun, Cain said. "This weekend is really about getting into the hockey

culture and introducing them to playing outside," he said. "Some of them probably never have skated outside; and you know, 34 years ago, when I was coming up, that's how everyone learned."

Cain, like many others involved in Concord's hockey scene, grew up skating at White Park. He said the Black Ice experience will prove valuable to the city's littlest skaters.

"Skating on an indoor rink is probably better for skill development, because the ice is

always perfect and smooth, with no cracks," he said. "On the pond, that's where you learn your most basic skating skills. ... You're constantly working on your balance. It forces you to work on your skating."

Like Cain, Brown's skating history is rooted in White Park. And in those wobbly-kneed mite players, he sees Black

Ice's future.

"We're hoping to plant the seed that creates the next generation of people who maybe someday want to take this over," Brown said.

If they do take it over, they'll be following in the footsteps of many of this weekend's participants. Brown said the tournament has 98 adult teams lined up ranging from ages 18 to 50-plus, with 20 more teams on the waitlist. He said about half of those teams have some sort of connection to Concord.

"We're starting to call it a pond hockey festival," Brown said, noting Black Ice's integration of live music and entertainment. "But it's also like an Old Home Day for Concord."

For more information on the tournament, visit blackicepondhockey.com.

(Caitlin Andrews can be reached at 369-3309, candrews@monitor.com or on Twitter at @ActualCandrews.)

CONCORD
City buys 106 acres for conservation

The city of Concord recently bought 106 acres of undeveloped forest land off Lakeview Drive and West Parish Road that it plans to put into conservation.

The purchase, previously the site of a historical agricultural operation owned by the Haller family, was financed in

part by a grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, according to a city newsletter. The grant covered half the cost of the \$600,000 purchase price; the remaining amount was funded by the city's Conservation Trust Fund.

The acquisition adds to an existing block of conservation land in the area totaling nearly 900 acres, according to the newsletter.

Caitlin Andrews

Pebble Beach Pro-Am @ Pembroke Pines CC

What is it? 18 Hole Best Ball tournament on our Simulators. Pick any pro playing as your partner!

When is it? Now through Feb. 11th

Where is it? Pebble Beach Golf Links

Cost? \$50 per entry includes sim rental (Thr) and entry fee & CTP

Gross & Net Prizes will be based on amount of entries.

Tees: Whites (Men) / Red (Women) Gimmes: 6 feet. Conditions: Dry, Light Wind. Open to all ages and abilities play once or ten times no limit on entries.

603-210-1365 Ext 12 www.PembrokePinesCC.com

Energy, economy tou in Northern Pass br

NORTHERN PASS FROM A1

filed the brief Friday. The project would include a 192-mile transmission line from Pittsburgh to Deerfield.

Northern Pass Transmission LLC is a subsidiary of Boston-based Eversource, and the submission of the final brief is a key step in the project's approvals process. Northern Pass backers said in the executive summary of the brief that the proposal would have no view impacts in the White Mountain National Forest, Appalachian Trail or Franconia Notch areas.

They also wrote that the proposal "has received the most extensive review of any electric transmission project in the history of New Hampshire" and would "deliver clean, affordable hydropower into the New England power grid."

The project is designed to carry hydropower from Canada to southern New England markets, providing electricity to about a million homes. Opponents who are skeptical of the economics

and environmental in the project have against it and called regulators to prevent moving forward.

The Society for the protection of New Hampshire Forests filed a memo this month stating that would "pervasively and permanently scar the two thirds of our state towers and transmission lines that cut through unique ecosystems and rise above the tree canopy."

New Hampshire regulators completed the project in December. Site Evaluation Commission expected to begin negotiations on the Northern Pass application in the first of January.

Then, state regulators expected to announce a decision on the project by the end of March. Reporters would like construction by the state.

Their final brief states the project would "generate 2,600 jobs during construction, with a commitment to hire New Hampshire first."

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