

SPORTS, C1

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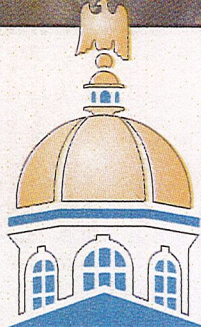


LOCAL & STATE, B1

## N.H. residents are mostly from elsewhere



# SUNDAY MONITOR



JANUARY 31, 2016

concordmonitor.com

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

CONCORD

## A HOCKEY HISTORY

At Black Ice Championship, nostalgia is everywhere you look



RAY DUCKLER

MONITOR COLUMNIST

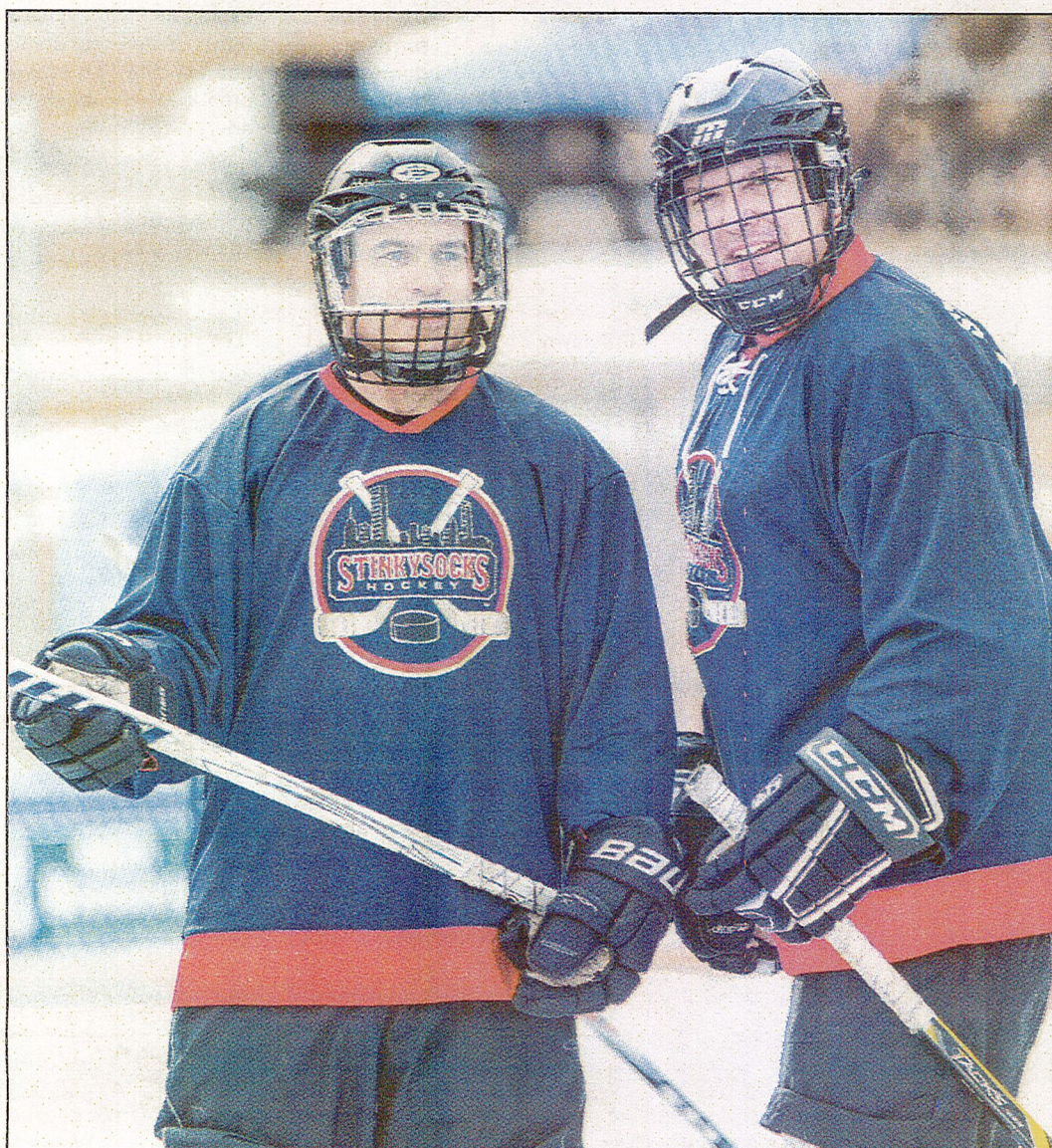
The rich history in the big tent, serving as a makeshift locker room for the sixth Black Ice Pond Hockey Championships, hit me like a barrage of slapshots.

Look, there's Bruce Gillies, the goaltender who once faced pucks fired by The Great One, Wayne Gretzky. And look, there's Lee Blossom, a college star who was named Most Valuable Player of the prestigious Beanpot Tournament. And isn't that Dunc Walsh, who set scoring records at Plymouth State College before coaching Concord high to six state titles?

The names and nicknames on the backs of jerseys on Friday at White Park were a who's who of hockey, names like Farrelly and Tilly and Commy.

Everyone, it seemed, had nostalgia in their blood, a byproduct of a sport invented here, embraced here and now showcased here, through the Black Ice Championship.

On a smaller scale, I found Jimmy Landry and Dave Le-



GEOFF FORESTER / Monitor staff

Jimmy Landry (left) and Dave LeCompte prepare to hit the ice during their game Friday morning at the Black Ice tournament at White Park. Below: Teams play on Saturday.

See HOCKEY - A4



ELIZABETH FRANTZ / Monitor staff

FOR MORE photos of Saturday's games, go to [concordmonitor.com](http://concordmonitor.com).

TODAY'S semifinals and finals will be played at Everett Arena. For a schedule and other information, go to [blackicepondhockey.com](http://blackicepondhockey.com).

## State of the state could chart course

Hassan might suggest her pl

Amid the hundreds of presidential campaign events next week is a different kind of candidate pitch: Democrat Maggie Hassan will on Thursday deliver the annual state of the state address, her last as governor.

The speech will undoubtedly be overshadowed by primary madness. But it will give some key clues to how Hassan plans to spend her last nine months in the State House, as she balances her role as governor and her bid against U.S. Sen. Kelly Ayotte.

The accomplishments she claims and the goals she outlines in her speech could be telling of the talking points she plans to highlight in her Senate campaign.

Since officially declaring a run last October, senate candidate Hassan has largely stayed out of the limelight. That will change once the primary ends, and the U.S. Senate race becomes the major 2016 election for New Hampshire.

Here's what to watch for: What victories will Hassan claim?

So far, Hassan's senate campaign has cast her as a bipartisan problem-solver who gets things done as governor and would do the same in Washington.

But the past year has been a bruiser for the second-term governor. Both legislative chambers have been controlled by Republicans, making it tough for Hassan to make strides on her own agenda that includes raising the minimum wage and bringing commuter rail to New Hampshire.

Most of Hassan's headline-grabbing actions last year involved vetoing Republican-backed legislation, including bills to institute 30-



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ELIZABETH FRANTZ photos / Monitor sta

**Left:** Teams Brian's One 2 One and the Galoots play boot hockey due to Saturday's warm weather during the Black Ice Pond Hockey Tournament at White Park in Concord. **Right:** Ice Hole's Taryn Lapierre tries to retain control of the puck after a fall during a game. Sunday's semifinal and finals will be played at Everett Arena starting at noon.

Compte, cousins who grew up skating at White Park and Everett Arena. Their names don't carry the muscle of players like Gillies, Blossom and others, but they're firmly entrenched in this fraternity all the same.

"When you're on the ice and giving it your all, you have brothers out there and it doesn't matter what level you're on," said Landry, moments before his team, the Stinky Socks, began playing on one of eight makeshift rinks. "Professional, college, it doesn't matter. You go to bat for each other when you spend a lot of time on the ice together."

Landry and LeCompte spent time on the ice as grade school kids in Concord Youth Hockey. They went their separate ways at a young age, with Landry, who works in the music business, moving to Maine at age 12 and then settling in the New York City area.

LeCompte, who's in software sales, moved to Boston 20 years ago.

They've seen each other in Concord now and then, returning for funerals and other family matters. Then they played a pickup game in Boston a few years ago, their first time on the ice together since the 1970s.

This weekend they're teammates again for the second time in 40 years, playing for the Stinky Socks. Neither played varsity college hockey, but that hardly matters.

"A great feeling here," LeCompte said. "I wasn't that close to (Landry) at first growing up, but we grew closer through hockey."

Concord is a hockey town. Always has been, ever since the first organized game in the country was played on Nov. 17, 1883, at St. Paul's School.

Photos were posted Friday on a wall in the locker room tent, pictures that gave perspective and added texture to the city's connection with hockey.

Once, Concord fielded semipro teams called the Coachmen, the Eastern Olympics and, through the 1970s and '80s, the Budmen. Those teams filled Everett Arena on Saturday nights and slugged it out with the archrival Berlin Maroons of the old New England Hockey League.

It was top-flight hockey at a reasonable rate, and it represented a simpler time when local sports gave kids a big-time feel.

A feature published a few years ago by the *New York Times*, displayed on the tent wall this weekend, revisits the city's past, saying, "no sport has captured the city's imagination quite like hockey."

Gillies was drafted by the Edmonton Oilers in the 1980s,

after starring at Bishop Brady High and the University of New Hampshire. He was as big as he was affable.

During the same era, Blossom played at Concord High and was a high-flying forward at Boston College before a brief professional career.

Concord's Kent Carlson, who is not participating this weekend, was around then, too, later carving out a small niche with the Montreal Canadiens and St. Louis Blues. Tara Mounsey out-skated the boys at Concord High and helped the U.S. win an Olympic gold medal in 1998.

Mounsey skated here last year, drawing a crowd of autograph-seeking girls in awe of

her trailblazing ways.

Everyone seems intertwined, some how, some way, when it comes to hockey.

LeCompte's brother, Mark LeCompte, played hockey with Blossom and Carlson at Concord High. Then I found out that Landry's brother, John Landry, played with Gillies at Bishop Brady.

And those two brothers, Mark LeCompte and John Landry, faced each other in high school during the late 1970s, when the state's high school rivalry was at its hottest.

John Landry is a firefighter in Wisconsin. He explained by phone the unique camaraderie created by hockey.

"No matter where you go you feel it," he said. "Some of my best friends are guys I met right here playing hockey. There's something about the game that creates a common bond. You walk into the locker room and you can feel it right away."

I felt it in the White Park tent, used as a dressing area for the dozens of players competing this weekend in an event that began in 2010.

The cousins changed near each other, with mortgages and kids and jobs more important now than slapshots and wrist shots and wins.

They filed out of the tent and onto one of the rinks, smaller than a normal-sized

*Concord is a hockey town. Always has been, ever since the first organized game in the country was played on Nov. 17, 1883, at St. Paul's School.*

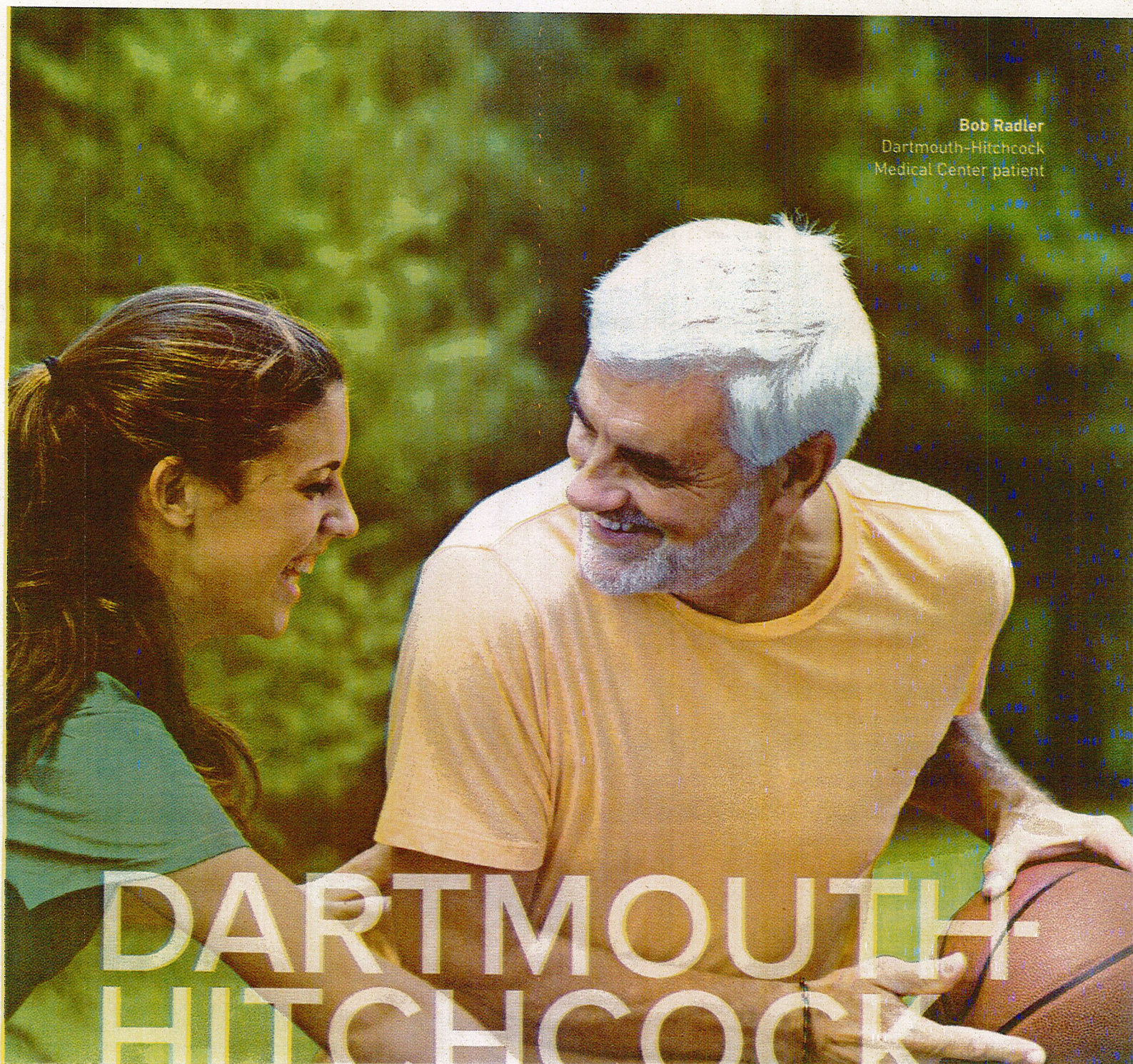
hockey rink. They lost to the Grass Dawgs, 16-1, and no doubt will take some ribbing from the hockey community because of the final score.

Afterward, I learned that Jimmy Landry's late uncle, Don Burke, ran the pro shop at Everett Arena, which opened in 1965 and is named after former Olympian Douglas Everett.

"My uncle helped build it," Landry told me. "He fell off the roof and broke his collarbone."

Not surprising, really. Uncle Don merely took one for the team.

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