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# CONCORD MONITOR

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CONCORD

## BONDS OF ICE



SAMANTHA GORESH photos / Monitor staff

Derek Davidson of Bethlehem plays the bagpipes as players file onto the ice for the opening ceremony of the 1883 Black Ice Pond Hockey Championship at White Park in Concord yesterday. **FOR RESULTS** from the games, see page B4.

### Black Ice tournament shows how hockey ties families, community

By JEREMY BLACKMAN  
Monitor Staff

Michelle Arndt flew more than a thousand miles this week to strap on snow boots, zip up a full-body jacket, swaddle her head in a scarf and stand outside in single-digit temperatures for hours cheering on her husband, Bob, on his path to potential greatness.

Like several of her fellow chapped-lipped, flush-cheeked spectators who gathered yesterday morning at White Park for the kickoff of the third annual 1883 Black Ice Pond Hockey Championship, the Minnesota native's attraction to hockey is not simply recreational – it's also familial.

Bob's brother Steve lives in Concord, and the two have kept in touch over the years, partly by playing the sport together. Last week Steve and his wife, Kim, flew to Minnesota for a pond tournament in which the brothers competed; this week it was Bob and Michelle's turn to return the favor.

And the bloodline doesn't stop there: Kim and Steve's adult son and young grandson are each taking part in the three-day event, which has in its brief existence morphed into a symbol for Concord's deep connection to family and sport.

"That's what's so cool about this," said Kim, as she and

See **BLACK ICE** – A4



The Turkey Pond Flyers battle the Blackhawks in the first game of the Black Ice tournament yesterday morning.

## Delay in Medicaid lawsuit

Hospitals request  
as feds weigh rate

By ANNMARIE TIMM  
Monitor staff

The 10 hospitals suing the cuts to Medicaid rates asked halt proceedings yesterday and officials have decided whether governor John Lynch and law the rates illegally.

If approved, the time-out would certainly further delay the shift to managed care, which is already months – and \$12 million – behind. That's because the state has moved forward until the hospitals sue the managed care companies. Hospitals have said they won't sue until the lawsuit is pending.

The hospitals are fighting for about \$190 million in back Medicaid payments.

will lose \$1.5 million in savings a month it fails to implement care. It was supposed to start

Yesterday's filing by the wasn't what U.S. District Court Steven McAuliffe requested a month ago following a December 11 ruling. In fact, he rejected the request for a delay then. McAuliffe instead asked hospitals to tell him how they would pay the financial dispute over Medicaid.

Hospital attorney Scott O'Nixon Peabody said yesterday co-counselors realized they could not win on all the rate cuts.

"We said, he can't do anything until this is decided," O'Connell said.

At issue are a number of cuts and lawmakers made in Medicaid reimbursement rates beginning in 2011 in order to balance the state budget. O'Connell said those cuts – to inpatient and outpatient rates and for long-term care – cost the 10 hospitals \$190 million.

See **MEDIC**



MAN Continued from A1



ANDREA MORALES / Monitor Staff

Supreme Court justice David Souter shakes hands with UNH School of Law Dean John Broderick as he

courtroom where the memorial for Warren Rudman, former U.S. senator, was held. In the foreground, U.S.

Ayotte and Gov. Maggie Hassan greet each other. Both Ayotte and Hassan spoke at the memorial as well.

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H.W. Bush to appoint Souter to the Supreme Court.  
After two terms in the Sen-  
ate, Rudman practiced law  
and continued to advocate for  
a balanced budget, chaired  
the President's Foreign Intel-  
ligence Advisory Board and,  
with former Colorado Demo-  
cratic senator Gary Hart, co-  
chaired a national security  
commission that in January  
2001 warned of the danger of  
terrorist attacks on U.S. soil.  
Yesterday's memorial ser-  
vice was the second for Rud-  
man. Vice President Joe Biden  
and other officials paid tribute  
to him at a ceremony in Wash-  
ington at the end of November.  
A dozen people spoke yes-  
terday, including Shaheen and  
Republican Sen. Kelly Ayotte,  
Gov. Maggie Hassan and for-  
mer governor John Lynch.  
Many paid tribute to Rudman's  
record of bipartisan coopera-  
tion, his reputation for blunt  
straight talk, his honesty and  
his leadership.  
The most emotional trib-  
utes came from close friends  
like Souter and Tom Rath, who  
worked in the attorney gener-  
al's office under Rudman and  
later, like Souter, became at-  
torney general himself.  
Rath described Rudman  
as tough and smart, pugna-  
cious and kind, a man who was  
sometimes cranky but always

### SOUTER'S TRIBUTE

At a memorial service yesterday in Concord, retired U.S. Supreme Court associate justice David Souter was among those who paid tribute to Warren Rudman, who died Nov. 19 at the age of 82. Rudman served two terms in the U.S. Senate and helped elevate Souter to the high court in 1990.

The men became friends two decades earlier, when Rudman became New Hampshire's attorney general in 1970, a job he would hold until 1976. Souter was his deputy.

Souter quoted the poet T.S. Eliot, "In my beginning is my end. ... In my end is my beginning," as he de-  
scribed Rudman's career and what it meant to work for him in the early days.

"In Warren's beginning was also the beginning for a whole cohort of young lawyers who had the very good luck to be there working for him, in those days that were the beginning of Warren's public life. ...

"What the state and what the nation later come to know about Warren, we at least had the chance to learn from Warren. All we had to do was do our work, and look, and listen, and we were in a position to ... learn that you don't solve most public problems by shouting at the other guy, 'I win, you lose.'

"We were in a position to understand that equally principled people could disagree, and strong principled people could have the courage to compromise for the sake of getting public business done and actually ad-

### BLACK ICE Continued from A1

Michelle huddled over a bin fire next to one of the eight rinks constructed for the three-day tournament. "I have a 62-year-old husband in the tournament, a 37- or 38- (I can never remember) year-old son and a 5-year-old grandson who will be playing later this afternoon. There are a gazillion stories like ours out here today. You know these people, you see them around, your kids play together."

Since its beginning in 2010, the Black Ice tournament has focused as much on local stories and personal connections formed by hockey as the game itself.

Gregg Fournier, one of the organizers of the event, knows that well. As a child, he said, his father and he used to walk to White Park and sit on a hill there to watch the Concord High School hockey team play. When he was older, Fournier and a handful of friends used to play on the pond after school. "We were up here every day, usually until six or seven at night," he said. "We used to close down this park."

Now a "retired" recreational player, Fournier, who works in construction, manages the setup and maintenance of the rinks. He said the tournament, which has swelled from last year's 64 teams to this year's 85, was no easy feat to pull off.

"We were out here from 9 a.m. to about probably 3 p.m. setting up," Fournier said. "It was really windy, but we have a great crew; more than a hundred volunteers who helped put this all together."

Pond hockey, for anyone unfamiliar, is basically hockey stripped of most of its rules. As the game is played at the Black Ice tournament, there are two 15-minute periods, four players on each team, no goalies, no slap-shots and no direct hitting allowed.

"A lot of pond hockey is just about stick handling and finesse," said Sam Chase, an algebra teacher who was playing for his first time in the tournament.

Chase said he grew up in Concord and used to play pick-up games at the park when he was kid. He played for his high school's team and has played on an adult recreation league for years. "Now I'm on the old man team in Laconia," he said. "And you know what? It's still a blast. In high school I used to love the hitting and roughing stuff, but now it's more about passing and playing smart. For me, pond hockey is really where the fresh air and the joy of the sport comes into play."

Not every hockey player at the park yesterday came to skate. Bronson Taylor, a 6-year-old who plays in a youth league in Belmont and who described his favorite part of hockey as "shooting and stuff," rode down with his dad and older brother to catch a few games.

By midday and with two rounds in the books, Chris Brown, the lead organizer of the event and a player on the Concord Budmen, a 35-and-older team, said as far as he could tell, things were running remarkably smoothly.

"The weather is good and the ice is nice and hard," he said.

The chilly temperatures - as of 9:30 a.m. the thermostat was hovering at 3 degrees Fahrenheit - were a welcome attribute to this year's festivities, Brown said. Last year organizers nearly cancelled the tournament due to unusually warm conditions.

"This year, the conditions are very frigid and very much winter," he said. "Which is great because it helps us maintain the ice and fill in cracks as the games go on."

Other than the tournament's expanded size, players and spectators should not expect much different this year, Brown said. There are still vendors selling merchandise and food. There are still shuttles for people who want to head to restaurants and bars downtown. There was still an afternoon bonfire yesterday afternoon and a fireworks show last night. And 50 percent of the proceeds from team registration will still go to the community's coffers.

"At least for the near future, we're going to keep this thing the way it's been," Brown said. "We don't want to lose focus of what this is all about, which is expanding ice skating opportunities for everyone here in Concord."

Tom Painchard, a Black Ice association committee member, sounded a similar note. "Our big hope is just for everyone to have a good time," he said. "Just getting people out on the pond and playing pond hockey in the truest spirit, where players have to get creative, where there are no referees, where the clock keeps ticking so you can't waste a lot of time, where the guys stick around and clean the ice after their games - where everyone pitches in."

(Jeremy Blackman can be reached at 369-3319 or jblackman@concordmonitor.com.)