

Londonderry Times

December 16, 2021 ♦ Volume 22 – Issue 49

A FREE Weekly Publication



Airport Arrival

Santa Claus came to town via a Londonderry fire engine this year at the Aviation Museum due to the heavy rains on Saturday morning. Santa usually arrives via helicopter each year, but the change and the weather didn't deter young fans of St. Nick from sharing their wishes. More photos page 5.

Photo by Chris Paul

Town Council Discusses Budget at Public Hearing

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Public Hearing on the over \$39 million FY23 town budget was discussed during the Monday, Dec. 6, Londonderry Town Council

meeting and the biggest part of the discussion centered on the addition of a \$100,000 for the Police Department's cyber security upgrade.

Town Council chairman John Farrell led off

the talks by explaining that the town fiscal year starts on July 1, 2022 and ends on June 30, 2023 and they were looking at budgets that will end 18 months out.

continued on page 2

School Budget Workshop Reveals Teacher Reduction

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The School Board held a budget workshop on Tuesday, Dec. 7, where they heard from some a number of department heads regarding next year's proposed budget.

Presenting the staffing and personnel budget line was Assistant Superintendent Dan Black.

"This is the biggest part of the budget," said Black.

Black said that when they make decisions including staffing it's based on the mission of the school district and having the right personnel

needed to accomplish it.

"We are a school district with a focus on having our students be college and career ready," he said. "Even with COVID we do an excellent job getting our students there."

When it comes to staffing one of the things that they look at is enrollment. Black explained that this year they made projections on enrollment based on moving their current students up one grade level. For Moose Hill they based the projection based on the historical average of how many students are enrolled which he said has been consistent.

"These are the enroll-

ments that start to drive some of our decisions," he said.

After looking at the projected enrollment numbers, and at their current staffing numbers, Black said that they are proposing to reduce three teacher positions at the elementary school level.

He said that the decision was driven by fiscal responsibility more than anything else.

Black said that the decision to propose cutting three teachers for next year was "definitely the hardest decision we made I think in this year's budget on the add swap sheet."

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School Board Gets Latest COVID Mitigation Strategy

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

During the Dec. 7 School Board meeting Assistant Superintendent Dan Black updated the School Board in regards to their transition to optional mitigation strategies in Londonderry Schools.

During the previous School Board meeting the District Administration received permission from the School Board to begin doing research on the legal and medical questions they had regarding this type of plan.

At the meeting Black presented to the Board a one page document giving the Board an update

on the progress they have made.

"We worked very hard over the past couple of weeks to put this together," Black said about the one page handout he passed out to the Board.

"As a school system we are not going to reach the 80% vaccination rate for COVID-19, in staff and students, that the NH Department of Public Health has set for us to relax mitigation strategies in this pandemic," the document stated. "However, by MLK Day 2022, or soon after, any staff or student that wants the protection from COVID-19 with a vaccination, will have

had a chance to get that immunity by that time."

Black explained that in order to make the shift they have legal questions that need to be answered first.

"We are consulting our insurance company and our legal counsel to ensure we have the legal opening to shift the liability away from the

continued on page 3

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School Budget

Continued from page 1

Later on in the meeting Londonderry Business Administrator Peter Curro said that the current budget for salaries across the District is \$42,197,222 for the entire District. The proposed budget for salaries is \$42,208,718, and the default budget would be \$42,098,941 for salaries.

He explained that in the proposed budget it includes the proposed increases for Adminis-

tration and non-affiliated employees. The default budget only shows the contractual obligations before the process starts and those contracts aren't finalized for next year.

For the athletic department, Londonderry Athletic Director Howard Sobolov said that the proposed athletic budget is based on the needs and fixed costs of running athletics in the Londonderry School District.

"This year I'm requesting a budget of \$410,940," he said.

He said that they currently have 81 teams with 108 coaches, and typically have 600 to 700 students who participate on a daily basis. He said that despite the District having a decline in enrollment they have had a steady amount of participation in athletics.

One of the major requests they are looking at as a department is having two full-time athletic trainers. Currently they have one full-time trainer and one part-time trainer.

It was explained by

Sobolov that right now the part-time trainer is working full-time hours. He thinks that they should be compensated for the full-time work they are doing.

The total increase would be \$53,865 if they move the part-time position to full-time and they take the School District's benefits.

One question asked if it would make more financial sense to have someone contracted to come in during the busy season instead of moving the part-time position to

full-time all year round.

"Can you do that, yes," Sobolov said but then explained that if they did so they would lose services which is why he isn't recommending that approach.

School Board member Bob Slater who was involved in athletics for Londonderry for 18 years asked if they are limiting themselves by moving the position to full-time rather than going with an extra part-time position to help offset the coverage.

Sobolov said that they

haven't looked at that. He said that right now they are able to cover everything but the problem is that the part-time trainer isn't getting paid full-time even though they work full-time hours.

Londonderry School Board Vice Chair Sara Loughlin said that she works in a school district that contracts out for athletic trainers and sees the difference.

The next Londonderry School Board meeting is slated to take place on Dec. 21 at 7 p.m.

Town Budget

Continued from page 1

Town Manager Kevin Smith presented the newest numbers to the council in the public hearing, with Finance Director Justin Campo feeling ill.

Smith said the town budget is about \$3,300 under the default budget and about a half of a percent above the current operating budget.

He also stated that staff had looked into whether or not the utilities lines in the department budgets needed to be raised be-

cause of the rise in water, gas and oil prices and he felt they could be left the way they were presented.

Smith also brought up the need for an additional \$100,000 for the Police IT Departments Cyber Security Plan and felt that it could be raised through a Warrant Article, but was apprehensive about whether it would fail and negate the ability of the police to upgrade.

The Proposed FY23 Budget was presented at \$39,204,994, with \$2,849,544 coming from sewer fund user fees making the Gen-

eral Fund \$36,355,455.

The subject of the \$100,000 cost for Cyber security garnered the most discussion after the budget presentation and Budget Committee member Jonathan Kipp asked whether the cost could be shared with the school district somehow.

Farrell felt that the level of security the police departments was looking to put in place would be far greater than the school district would need.

Police Chief Bill Hart concurred, saying that it was fundamentally different

in kind but not in degree.

Farrell added that it might be possible for the school and town to work together, but police is much different.

There was a lot of concern raised about whether the IT security plan could move forward if the Warrant Article failed.

Hart expressed concern over the article say that the funding needs to be "Lock Box Secure."

Farrell pointed out that 80% of the budget is made up of personnel and that if the \$100,000 were to be added to the budget

it would most likely have to come from there.

Councilor Joe Green felt that town staff could find the money needed elsewhere in the budget, suggesting the salt budget may not need to go up by \$20,000.

Smith responded that they could look at what is budgeted for insurance plans and thought a good amount could come from there.

Resident Bill Hamilton addressed the issue saying that he had worked with budgets for a number of years and

was willing to bet that the town could go back and find at least five percent more savings to the taxpayers in the budget.

He ended by challenging town staff to go back and find all of the little things that the budget has over what is needed and come back with a lower number.

Hamilton spoke earlier in the meeting about the significant rise in his recent property tax bill.

There will be another public hearing on the town budget in Jan. 17.

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COVID Update

Continued from page 1

school system to individuals," the document stated. "With no current legal requirement for staff and students to vaccinate for COVID-19 in NH Public Schools, we argue staff and families will own the liability for their choices around vaccines and facemasks, and other mitigation strategies while the pandemic continues."

"Within this overall approach, we would still have mitigation strategies surrounding any documented medically vulnerable students during the pandemic as needed to protect them," the docu-

ment presented to the Board also stated. "By the Jan. 11, 2022, we will share with the School Board and Community our findings from the Medical Advisory Committee."

The findings will focus on:

- Our predicament of having a low vaccination rate against COVID-19 with substantial community spread of the virus in the community and our schools.

- Explain what the "endemic" stage of any pandemic is, and how we will struggle to reach it with a low vaccination rate.

- The risks any unvaccinated staff and students will have with substantial community spread

of COVID19, especially with optional mitigation strategies in place within our schools.

- The protections of being vaccinated against COVID-19 and choosing individual mitigation strategies with substantial community spread of the virus within our schools and community.

- Clear timelines around vaccine and natural immunity to guide decision making for staff and students.

"By early January we should also have our optional asymptomatic PCR testing set up with for any staff or students

that are interested through Convenient MD. From this program, we also intend to have symptomatic rapid antigen testing available to staff and students at the District Office when needed to return to school.

Black during the meeting pointed out that there will be some things that the District won't be able to control.

"With this district-led transition, there are some approaches to COVID-19 that we will not be able to control because they are determined by the state and the public health department," the

handout stated.

It includes:

- Students and staff that test positive for COVID-19 will still need to follow the isolation guidelines until they are updated or changed by NH.

- Students or staff that are unvaccinated and have a positive COVID-19 case in their household will still need to quarantine until that guideline is updated or changed by NH.

- We do expect to see a similar number of positive cases enter our building and spread with our low vaccination rate and a shift to optional mitigation strategies as we have

already seen so far this school year. We will have to follow any directives from the Department of Public Health that may come if we continue to get clusters and outbreaks after this transition.

During the meeting Black was also critical of the State in regards to the COVID response particularly for when the end will be.

"We're constantly failed by Concord," Black said. "They are not leading us when it comes to public health measures. They always take the easy way out and they push all the hard decisions down to us."

OBITUARY

Linda Mae Martin,



Linda Mae Martin, 77, of Derry, NH, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021, in Parkland Medical Center, Derry, surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Pepperell, MA on Dec. 9, 1943, a daughter of the late Clearance and Arlene (Gillooly) Blood.

Linda was an active member of the Christian Fellowship Baptist Church. She was an avid book-reader. Her favorite author being Colleen Hoover (as of late). She also enjoyed crocheting and gifting her friends and family with her beautiful creations. She was always there whenever anyone needed her and she made tremendous impacts in all of the lives she touched.

As said by Emily Dickinson, a poet from Amherst, Massachusetts in the 1800s, "Unable are the loved to die, for love is immortality".

She is survived by her son, George A. Martin; daughter-in-law, Lisa Martin; two grandchildren, Alexis and Zachary; sister, cousins, and several nieces and nephews. Linda was predeceased by her loving husband, George H. Martin and brother, William Blood.

Following cremation, there will be no services scheduled at this time. The Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium, 15 Birch St., Derry is assisting the family with arrangements. To send a condolence, please visit, www.peabodyfuneralhome.com.

A Christmas Special will be held on Dec. 23 & 24 from 7 - 8:15 p.m., at the Derry Opera House, 29 West Broadway. Enjoy this rendition of the Christmas story with heartfelt original music and dramatization written specifically for this occasion.

Juan Saa, Lead Pastor of LifeWay Church with wife Ana have been working diligently along with their children and creative arts team and in cooperation with other local creative arts leaders. Come receive this gift of hope thoughtfully prepared to bless you and honor the birth of Christ the Savior. Refreshments will be served after each

Lifeway Church Holds Christmas Special



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Editorial

Holiday Greetings

As the holidays get closer and closer, we're all treated to outdoor Christmas decorations brightening the night on most streets, with merrily lit trees adding a festive touch to public spaces, and warm, friendly holiday music playing from every other car on the road. The weather even seems to be cooperative, for the time being, yet an offering of a light covering of snow would better set the scene for a Norman Rockwell, New England Christmas.

Now is a great time to bake an extra batch of cookies, or get together a few hand-written holiday cards and send them along to neighbors and coworkers. It may seem like a small gesture, but you'll never know whose holiday you'll make in the process.

In the past few decades, it feels like we have been led to believe that in order to show the amount we love our family and friends is reflected only on the amount of money we are able to spend on them, through fancy gifts and extravagant dinners. In our hearts, we all know that Christmas, Hanukkah and rest are not holidays based on greed and gluttony, despite what large commercial companies would want us to think. But rather, an opportunity for families and friends to reunite. These holidays carry the message of the miracle of giving and remembering what is near and dear. It's true that you don't have to break bank for gift-giving, just a little thinking outside of the gift-box goes a long way to show someone you care.

Money, after all, is not what the holidays were meant to be about, rather, good will towards our fellow human.

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We report on the good, the bad, and the in-between, bringing you up to speed on what's happening in town.

Our newspapers exist thanks to the help of advertising, and we encourage our readers finishing up their last-minute gift purchases to shop locally this holiday season, and to take advantage of what our towns have to offer. If you find what you need from one of our advertisers, please let them know we sent you!

With the holidays fast approaching, we don't doubt that you, our readers have been busy. Between holiday activities, fundraisers, collecting warm clothes and toys to help out those in need in our midst, requests from community groups selling Christmas trees and wreaths, holiday party invites and suggestions for gift giving, it can be hard to remember to take a breath. We appreciate you for taking the time to catch up on your local news!

We wish each one of you our readers the Merriest of Holidays, and all a very Happy Healthy New Year.

Thanks for reading!



Londonderry Times

The Londonderry Times is a weekly publication. It is mailed to every home in Londonderry free of charge and is available at a number of drop-off locations throughout the town.

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Letters

School Board Liability Question

To the editor,

Last week's article that reported the School Board's concern whether they had a COVID-19 liability situation seems to me to have an obvious answer - "yes". The Board is responsible for assuring the safety of students while they are in attendance. We know that masking, social distancing and vaccination are safe and effective ways to significantly limit the spread of infection. The first time that a student dies or develops major complications from COVID-19 and the infection can be traced to the school, the Board becomes at risk of a civil suit. Our litigious society certainly includes a lawyer who will be eager to represent the family in a claim that something as simple and obvious as requiring masking in a crowded, indoor, setting where many were unvaccinated was ignored. Civil suits do not require "beyond reasonable doubt". Who will pay the damages if the suit goes against the Board? The taxpayer.

Wake up, look at the local infection rate, consider the risk and take action to limit the taxpayers liability!

David Ellis
 Londonderry

Property Tax Rate May Look Nice but Tax Bills are Mighty Ugly!

To the editor,

Is it just me or did anyone else happen to notice an 18.7% increase in their property tax bills? Just a few weeks ago, I recall our Town Manager's comments (in this very publication)

that the Town's new property tax rate is the lowest it's been in many years. Well, that's nice BUT... it is the actual bill that must be paid and is at its highest level ever and by a wide margin! Even in a good economy, let alone now, tax increases of this magnitude are simply intolerable. There are a good many people who simply don't have an extra thousand dollars or two kicking around with which to pay increased taxes. And rest assured, this increase is by no means a one-shot deal. It is the gift that keeps on giving (actually taking!)

The nearly automatic, knee-jerk reaction to such steep increases is to call your Town Councilor (or in other municipalities, Selectman, Alderman, etc.) and proceed to berate him or her about your tax bill. But in reality, which entity is driving the increase?

Well, the Town's proposed budget appears as it will be a bit lower but the Town's budget represents only 22% of our tax bill. It is the Londonderry School District which consumes 64% ... nearly two thirds of our total tax bill! (The rest is attributed to the County tax and the State Education tax.) Now the School District may say "well, our proposed budget is lower than or nearly equal to last year's budget" but in reality (with stagnant enrollment) the bottom line will likely represents an increase.

I, like most of you, am proud to boast that Londonderry's schools are among the finest in the State but that does not imply that their budget proposal is a blank check. Yes, our elected(?) members of the School Board

are surely and rightfully attending to the Town's students but what about us taxpayers? We matter too because we fund those schools and educators and other School employees! But for us taxpayers, where do you suppose our schools and students would be?

My intent here is not to malign anyone nor any group of citizens or employees who are trying to maintain or improve our schools or our operation of the School District or Town government. But... we must remain vigilant year after year after year in order to keep tight control of spending and "budget creep". Speaking of education, please take a little time to self-educate about our current School Board members (and in the future, School Board candidates) in order to understand where they stand not only on education but also on budget matters and spending.

You know, it may be fine to say "it's all about the children" (and yes, of course they should matter) but in the final analysis, who pays the freight? Yes, it's us, the taxpayers and we matter too!

Robert R. LeBreux
 Londonderry

Woodmont Tax Incentives Are Just Wrong

To the editor,

As the Town Council considers a proposal to give huge tax breaks for new construction in Woodmont, we must ask ourselves, WHY? Giving 50% tax breaks to businesses while property taxes of our residents creep up makes no sense and is blatantly unfair. Saying it is good for our long-term

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Londonderry Times welcomes letters of up to 500 words on topics of local interest, and prints as many letters as possible. Please e-mail your letters to the Londonderry Times at londonderrytimes@nutpub.net. All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number for verification if needed; name and town of residence will be printed. Londonderry Times reserves the right to reject or edit letters for content and length, and anonymous letters will not be printed.

Aviation Museum Hold Open House and Santa Visit



With hard rains falling over much of Southern New Hampshire on Saturday, Santa's usual arrival to the Aviation Museum near the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport in a helicopter changed to a ride by fire truck. There were still a large amount of children there waiting to greet him to share their Christmas wishes at a safe distance. Organizers of the event had participants speak to Santa via microphone and were given treats after their talk. The museum was also heavily decorated and people were invited in for tours before and after Santa's arrival.

Photos by Chris Paul



Care in the comfort of home

"Home" takes on greater meaning as the holidays unfold. Receiving care at home is more personal and allows you to participate in special holiday traditions with loved ones while receiving the most advanced medical care available. We never waver in our commitment to care, in the comfort of your home. *Extending warm holiday wishes to you and those you hold dear.*

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Derry Londonderry Windham Raymond

Letters

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tax health is a lie that Londonderry and other towns have seen from our past experience.

We have seen incredible commercial growth in Londonderry during my 30 years here, and taxes have climbed dramatically. The added tax revenue, even with no property tax giveaways, gets eaten up by the added traffic, traffic lights and road maintenance, the need for more services such as police and fire, etc. Not to mention the added stress and health costs from the creation of a more urban environment. And handing out tax giveaways spread over 5 - 10 years to developers and some larger businesses is crazy. It

makes more money for developers that just don't need it, while the citizens of this town basically subsidize them. And what is even more insane is that the bigger the development (tier 1), the bigger and longer the tax subsidy.

Do we really want to donate our hard earned dollars to more development? Enough is enough. It is time to tell our town manager and councilors: no tax subsidies for the well off at the expense residents, the voters and us.

Bruce Wechsler
Londonderry

Welcome Sign Thank You

To the editor,
On behalf of the Londonderry Solid Waste and Environment Committee, I want thank the

following local businesses that kept the "Welcome to Londonderry" signs looking great for another year. Shady Hill Nurseries looks out for the signs on Rockingham Road at the Manchester line and on Nashua Road near the Hudson line. Groundhog Landscaping takes care of the signs on Rockingham Road near the Derry line and on Mammoth Road near Windham. Artisan Landscapes takes care of the sign on Nashua Road near I-93. Please support these local businesses, they support us in so many ways!

Lynn Wiles
Chair, Londonderry Solid Waste and Environment Committee

Thank You

To The editor,
The Londonderry Lions Club would like to thank the generous people of our community who supported our annual Christ-

mas Tree sale. This was an amazing year, selling out 300 trees by Sunday Dec. 5! Every dollar of the proceeds from the sale goes to Lions charities, which include: Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation: local eye screenings and eyeglasses for those less fortunate, Lions Camp Pride, a special needs camp with 1,100 ft of waterfront on Merry-meeting Lake, Thanksgiving and Christmas Turkey Baskets, supporting Local food pantry and soup kitchens and our Annual Londonderry High School Scholarships. The Lions Club is extremely grateful to the people of Londonderry for helping us help others. As we all reflect on this past year, please join the Lions in remembering members we lost this year, former Town Assessor Rick Brideau, Former State Rep. Robert Introne and Raymond Dion. Ray Dion was a 30 year member who tire-

lessly volunteered his time and efforts to the Lions and this Community. Our thoughts are with their families during this holiday season.

Be Kind.

Brian McCurley
Club President

American Oil Industry

To the editor,
Recent article in this venue quoted the US Energy Information Ad-

ministration stating America is a net exporter of "oil products". The author implies America has more crude oil than it needs and doesn't need Keystone Pipeline or drilling to meet America's needs. Wrong! What the EIA refers to as "oil products" are "by-products" derived from oil; not crude oil exports. These by-product exports include refined fuel oil, liquified gases,

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Letters

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plastic food containers/wrappings to name a few. Thus the author's quote that "Crude oil and petroleum product EXPORTS reach record

levels in the first half 2021" is misleading. 35 years in the oil, gas and petrochemical industries affords me some expertise in what I state. The author quoted that "Total energy exports (in 2020) exceeded imports

in 2019 for the first time in 67 years". True; Trump's policies in 2019/2020 reduced restrictions on oil drilling and refining making America energy independent of foreign oil. Absurdly, Biden kills Keystone and eliminates drilling on Alaska's North Slope causing oil prices, by-products and every item shipped using gasoline to spike, including foods, while begging Saudi Arabia for oil which they refuse to protect their pricing structure. Without sufficient crude oil supplies, Americans will feel inflationary prices on gasoline, home-heating oil/propane, food and much more well into 2022 and beyond if Biden doesn't take a conciliatory tone to the oil industry. If readers want to understand how important oil is to our way of life, Google "Life Without Oil"; a safe Facebook video. The author ridicules America's free market system and that oil companies are greedy and profit oriented. The free-market system is the most important attribute to America's economic success as it finances through taxation social welfare programs, government agencies, supports local and state governments and our military. Government control of our free-market system

as the author espouses would destroy our economy and way of life. Examples: USSR, Cuba, Venezuela, North Korea, African dictatorships. As to corporations answering to shareholders, true in that shareholder stock purchases allows corporations to invest in equipment to assure efficient and lowest production costs to meet consumer demand, competitiveness and profitability. The author did get one thing right stating "we are a

Country of: "We the People again, we will start to see a change". America will indeed see change when Republicans take back the Congress and Senate in 2022 and Presidency in 2024 due to Biden being wrong on every decision he's made. Current inflation of 6.8%, highest in 30 years, is just one of Biden's failures assuring low and middle-income classes will suffer the greatest. So much for Democrat's refrain they care for these Americans.

With Biden's approval rating at 41%, Americans are awaking to Biden's incompetence, mental decline and failure of uncle Bernie and Biden handler's socialist agenda. Yes, Trump's approval was lower at one point, but Trump is not the President. Criticizing Trump is the only thing Democrats have to sell. I'll take Trump's in-your-face personality and agenda any time.

Bob Pitre
Londonderry

OBITUARY

Todd C. Sullivan



Todd C. Sullivan 45, of Londonderry NH, a beloved father and husband died on Dec. 9, 2021 at Parkland Medical Center in Derry, NH, following injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Todd was born in Boston, MA June 29, 1976, son of Brian Sullivan and Cathy (Coleman) McKenna.

In addition to his parents, Todd is survived by his wife of 17 years, Katherine (Sheehan) Sullivan of Londonderry; his son, Jacob Sullivan of Londonderry; his two daughters, Madeline Sullivan of Londonderry, and Kayla Sullivan and her wife Bruna of Manchester, NH; his brother Jeff Sullivan and his wife Allison of Salem, MA; his mother-in-law, Sandra Sheehan of Methuen, MA., his extended family and abundance of friends.

Todd was employed by National Grid for 15 years and enjoyed his work as a Working Leader in Operations and Maintenance in the Methuen, MA office. Todd valued his Union Brothers at the I.B.E.W Local 326. He spoke highly of the camaraderie among the brotherhood.

As a family man, Todd cherished the time he spent with his son attending WWE wrestling matches and bringing his daughter to Daddy Daughter dances. One of his proudest moments was walking his eldest daughter down the aisle on her wedding day.

As a true Bostonian, Todd was an avid sports fanatic and loved all Boston teams especially the New England Patriots. He enjoyed organizing the family fantasy football league.

He will be remembered for his fun, loving and sometimes sarcastic humor. And the love he had for his wife.

Calling hours were held on Tuesday, Dec. 14, in the Peabody Funeral Homes & Crematorium. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday at St. Jude's Parish. Burial will followed in Holy Cross Cemetery, Londonderry.

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Londonderry Local to Star in Ballet Misha's Nutcracker

Ballet Misha, the Manchester based professional dance company affiliated with Dimensions in Dance and directed by Amy Fortier and assistant director Mari Frederique-Streitburger, will once again stage their production of The Nutcracker at The Dana Center at Saint Anselm College on Saturday, Dec. 18, at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 19 at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Ballet Misha's production is performed by professional dancers in the company, as well as apprentice company members, and students of its affiliate school, Dimensions in Dance. The cast of over 100 dancers has rehearsed for months, and they are excited for the moment when they can perform this magical production

this weekend. With hundreds of vibrant costumes, five beautiful sets, and Tchaikovsky's jubilant score, Ballet Misha's production of The Nutcracker is the perfect holiday entertainment.

Ballet Misha's production tells the classic story of a girl named Clara who receives a wooden nutcracker in the shape of a soldier as a Christmas present from her mysterious godfather Drosselmeyer. This simple gift leads Clara on a magical journey that delights audiences of all ages.

"I think one of the reasons The Nutcracker is so magical for children is because the lead character of Clara is danced by a child. There is no other professional ballet where the most important role is danced by a young girl," explains director Fortier.

It was a production of Boston Ballet's Nutcracker that inspired Director Amy Fortier to become a dancer.

"I was only three years old, but that was it. I knew ballet was the only thing for me," says Fortier. Now, Fortier aspires to pass the magic and inspiration of The Nutcracker onto her students.

Charlotte Presher, age 13, of Londonderry, will dance the coveted role of Clara this year. "I am super excited to be Clara this year," says Charlotte Presher. "I love doing the Nutcracker because I can work on my performing skills, and it is also a wonderful bonding experience with my friends and two of my family members who are also in the show."

Plains director Fortier.

Presher, a seventh grader at Londonderry Middle school, has been dancing six days a week for months to prepare and train for this role.

"Charlotte works hard everyday, and I am really proud of her," says director Fortier. "I can't wait to see her on stage."

Fortier explains that the dancers are very excited for the Nutcracker this year because the 2020 Nutcracker was canceled due to Covid-19.

"The dedication and work these dancers have put in for months, in masks, makes me beyond proud. Even in dark times, they are moving forward and working hard for their moment under the bright lights on stage," says Fortier.

Ballet Misha will perform The Nutcracker at



Charlotte Presher, of Londonderry, plays Clara.

the Dana Center at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, NH on Saturday, Dec. 18 at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 19 at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets for Ballet Misha's The Nutcracker can be purchased online at balletmisha.com or in person in the lobby before the performances.

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LONDONDERRY SPORTS

Lancers Girls' Hoops Squad Gets First Win with New Coach

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Despite starting their season with a tough 35-27 at Windham High School on Friday night, the Londonderry High School Girls' Basketball team snapped back, getting their first win under new head coach Jon Doherty on Monday night.

Doherty took over the program in June, after longtime head coach Nick Theos announced his retirement.

The Lady Lancers hosted the Purple Panthers from Nashua South on Monday night, Dec. 13, and after a slow start to the first half on both sides of the court, the home squad tightened up their defense and went on to narrowly defeat their guest by a score of 46-45.

Nashua outscored LHS in the first half 36-25



New Lancer head coach Jon Doherty

of the game, in part due to the Panthers hitting many of their three-point attempts. The NSHS squad had 15 of their 18, second quarter points, scored from outside the arc.

After the halftime break, the Lady Lancers turned into a much better team and outscored Nashua 12-4 in the third quarter and 9-5 in the

fourth for the narrow, one-point win.

Londonderry was able to shutdown the South team's outside shooting and allowed just two, three-pointers to find the net in the second half.

After the game, the new head coach commented on the quick turn around, "Definitely a lot of struggles in the first half, but we came alive in the second half. We were definitely more under control, the defense tightened up a lot, they (Nashua) had 36 points at halftime and ended with 45, so a much better defensive effort from us."

Senior forward Olivia Chau was the high scorer for the Lady Lancers, getting 16-points in the game, including a critical three-pointer in the final seconds of the fourth quarter to put the

Lancers ahead for good.

Chau followed up her well-timed three-pointer with a defensive steal on the other end of the court with 13-seconds on the clock.

Kate Sloper contributed 10-points, with one from outside the arc. Shannon Ball and Jordan Furlong both had six-points in the game and Reagan Anderson and Madelyn O'Shaughnessy added four each.

In the 35-27 Friday night loss to Windham High School, fouls played a big part in the game, with the Lady Jaguars getting 21 of their 35-points from the foul line.

The Lady Lancers had 11-points scored by free throws.

Chau led in scoring with 11-points and Sloper had five-points in the low-scoring contest.



Senior Olivia Chau accounted for two key plays at the end of the game against Nashua for the team's first win of the season. Photos by Chris Paul

The team will travel to Nashua on Friday night, Dec. 17, for the Lady Cardinals from Bishop Guertin who have won five of the last six Division I State unenviable task of taking on the always-tough Championships.

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Lancers Boys' Hoops Home Opener Ends in Overtime Loss



Mike Rosatano

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Despite getting off to a blistering start, with senior forward Mike Rosatano scoring 17-points to

start the first quarter of the Londonderry High School Basketball team's home opener against Windham High School, the Lancers fell 61-58 in very close and exciting

overtime game to start the winter season.

Rosatano's great start featured five successful three-pointers and helped to catapult the team into a 23-11 first-quarter start, getting Lancer Nation up off their seats and expecting a big win to start the season.

The Lancers scoring simmered a bit in the second quarter, but the team still maintained a 32-20 lead headed into the second half.

In the second half, the Jaguar defense tightened up and allowed their offense to edge closer in the third period and eventually tie the game in regulation.

The Windham team inched closer in the third with 16-points to Londonderry's 12-points and in the final period of regulation.

The WHS squad outscored LHS 16-10 in the fourth with the final two points coming from a last second lay-up that rolled into the basket off the back of the rim for the 52-52 tie to end the regulation.

In the fourth quarter Rosatano Had to keep LHS in the game by making three high-pressure free throws, after being fouled on a shot outside the arc, to keep LHS in the game.

In overtime, Lancer senior guard, Justin Hoggard, scored his team's only four points and Windham tallied seven for the win.

Rosatano had a big start to the season for the Lancers, with 27-points to lead the team in scoring. He had five three-pointer, three two-point baskets and six successful free throws.



Justin Hoggard

Hoggard had 12-points to finish the game, Sophomore forward Tyler Miles had seven points and junior guard Kevin Rouke ended with five points.

The LHS team had its second game of the sea-

son against the Nashua South Purple Panthers on Monday night, Dec. 13 and scored the same amount of points.

This time they they were on the winning side of that number with a 58-49 finish to the game.

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Dunkin' at Half Court

Londonderry High School junior Dylan Wilson hit his attempt to sink a basket from half court during half-time at the Friday night Boys' Varsity Basketball game. He won a gift card to Dunkin' for his effort which is something that will be featured during Friday night games.

Photo by Chris Paul

Spirit Display

The winter sports season got underway at Londonderry High School on Friday night and the Winter Spirit squad was on hand to cheer on the Lancer Boys' Basketball team as they played the first of their 18 games before the playoff.

Photo by Chris Paul



Lancer Wrestlers Have Tough Start to Winter Season

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High School Wrestling Team opened the 2021-22 Winter season with a trip to Nashua to face the Titans where they were defeated 48-34 despite a number of strong individual victories.

The Londonderry squad handed Nashua four victories by forfeit due to the fact that they were unable to fill four of the 14 weight classes.

The 113, 120, 182 and 220 weight classes were won by Nashua by virtue of LHS not having wrestlers to fill the spots and setting up Londonderry with a very difficult hill to climb.

Londonderry had string of victories come to the team starting in the 126-pound weight

class.

Lancer Kaden Stone pinned Benjamin Haight in 1:04 for six team points.

David Pento, at 132 lbs., pinned Dimitri Moreno for a win in 2:54.

At 138, Evan Madigan had a match win over Jonathan Torres with a 2:29 fall.

Michael Palma got a quick pin over Andrew Frye at 145 lbs. (Fall 1:09).

In the 152 lb. weight, Patrick O'Connor managed a fall over Steven Rosario in 1:39.

Matthew Ritchey had a win at 195 lbs. over Bryson Borrromeo and added four team points for a 17-5 major decision.

Following that first dual meet of the season, the Lancer squad traveled to Haverhill Mass. to take part in the Westford Academy Duals

where they fell to three teams and tied with one.

The Lancer squad was once again unable to fill three weight classes and gave up 24-points to start each match.

The tie was against the meet's host Westford Academy with a 42-42 result.

All the Lancer wins came by way of pins. 106: Nikki Stylianos at 106 (Fall 3:17); Nicolas D'Alessandro at 126; David Pento at 132; Michael Palma at 145; Patrick O'Connor at 152; Ricardo Perez (160 lb.); and Matthew Ritchey (195 lb.).

Londonderry fell 48-30 in the dual meet against Haverhill High School.

Wins came from Nicolas D'Alessandro (126 lb.) with a pin; Michael Palma (138)

with a forfeit; Patrick O'Connor (152) with a Fall at 5:13; Ricardo Perez (160) Fall 1:13; and Devin Ortiz (220) with a pin at 1:10.

In the team's dual against Beverly High School, Londonderry fell 54-30 with most of their

points coming by way of pins.

David Pento had a quick pin at 132 lbs. (Fall - 0:55); Evan Madigan (138 lbs.) Fall at 2:49; Patrick O'Connor (152 lbs.) Fall at 1:11; and Ricardo Perez (160) Fall at 2:19. Nikki Stylianos received a for-

feit at 106 lbs.

The Lancer team suffered its biggest defeat at the hands of St. John's Preparatory School, losing 70-3.

Michael Palma had a three-point win over Adam Callum in a 4-0 decision.

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Lancer Boys Swim Team Sweeps Three Squads in First Meet

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High School Boys and Girls Swim Teams hosted the first meet of the winter season and the boys successfully beat three teams while the girls won two of three.

For the home opening meet, the Lancers had to travel to the Salem Workout Club because of equipment

problems at the Londonderry facility, and faced teams from Alvirne, Spaulding and Merrimack High Schools.

The Lancer boys successfully defeated each of those teams. They beat Spaulding 69-35; Merrimack 67-47 and Alvirne 67-27.

The LHS girls' squad beat Spaulding 67-29 and Alvirne 65-53, but fell to a very strong Merrimack team by a score of 93-43.



Kevin Moscat

- BOYS -
In the 200-Yard

Freestyle, senior Kevin Moscat, led LHS with a third place finish at 2:08.93 and junior Slate Branson, was fourth at 2:13.57.

In the 200-Yard Individual Medley, Reed Erdtmann took first place with a time of 2:22.06.

In the 50-Yard Freestyle, Sean Bailey, had a time of 23.98 for first and Caleb Howard was third with a time of 30.50.

The 100-Yard Butterfly win went to Reed Erdtmann with his time of 1:01.78.

The 100-Yard Freestyle race had Caleb Howard finishing second with a time of 1:10.50.



Maggie Edwards

The 500-Yard Freestyle had Slate Branson taking first with a time of 6:08.39.

The 200-Yard Freestyle Relay team of Kevin Moscat, Slate Branson, Reed Erdtmann and Sean Bailey took first place with their time of 1:41.04. The 100-Yard Backstroke had Kevin Moscat take third at 1:08.70.

The 100-Yard Breaststroke had Sean Bailey take first with a time of 1:08.20.

In the 400-Yard Freestyle Relay, the team of Erdtmann, Branson, Moscat and Bailey took first place with a time of 3:51.22.

- GIRLS -

In the 200-Yard Medley Relay the team of Caden Thomas, Maggie Edwards, Kyra Courtemanche, and Lexi Apholz finished in second overall with a time of 2:12.84.

The 200-Yard Freestyle had Freshman Ali Von Pichl, finish in second place with a time of

2:26.93.

In the 200-Yard Individual Medley, Freshman Kyra Courtemanche finished in third at 2:39.97.

The 50-Yard Freestyle had junior Lexi Apholz finishing in second place with a time of 27.73.

The 100-Yard Butterfly had junior Maggie Edwards finishing third at 1:08.67.

The 100-Yard Freestyle race had Lexi Apholz finishing in second place at 1:03.33.

In the 500-Yard Freestyle, Kyra Courtemanche finished in second at 6:26.19.

In the 200-Yard Freestyle Relay, the team of Apholz, Von Pichl, Courtemanche and Edwards took second place with their time of 1:52.92.

In the 100-Yard Backstroke, Von Pichl finished fifth (1:18.07) and Thomas was sixth at 1:27.82.

The 100-Yard Breaststroke had Edwards taking third place with her time of 1:17.37.

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AROUND TOWN

Around Town Policy: This section is meant to be used to announce free events to the communities. If your group is receiving money for what they are publicizing, there will be a charge of \$40/week per paper. All Around Town/Calendar Items will be held to 100 words maximum. All free announcements in the Around Town/Calendar section can run a maximum of three weeks. Deadline for submissions is Monday at 5 p.m. Please send items to londonderrytimes@nutpub.net.

Free Christmas Event

Christmas Special on Dec. 23 & 24 at 7 p.m., at the Derry Opera House, 29 West Broadway, Derry. Text HOPE4U to 97000 to register for free tickets. The Christmas Special is a rendition of the Christmas story with heartfelt original music and dramatization written specifically for this occasion. An unforgettable memory for the entire family in this time of crisis and uncertainty for our world. Come and receive this gift of hope thoughtfully prepared to bless you and honor the birth of Christ the Savior. Appetizing refreshments will be served after each showing.

Live Music

On Dec. 17, American

Legion Post 27 will host a Live music presentation with Jeff Mrozek from 7:30 - 11 p.m. Located at 6 Sargent Rd in Londonderry (behind the fire station on Mammoth Rd.

Share a Story with Library Friends

Drop by the Leach Library Facebook page to share a quick story with library friends! New videos will be available to watch starting on Thursday, Dec. 16, and Dec. 30 at 10 a.m.

Food for Fines

The Derry Public Library and Londonderry Leach Library are excited to announce a Food for Fines drive to benefit local food pantries. The friendly competition will begin on Wednesday, Dec. 1. Non-perishable food donations

will be accepted at both libraries during operating hours until closing on Saturday, Dec. 18. For every food item donated, up to two dollars in overdue fines will be cleared from your library card. Food for Fines does not apply to lost or damaged items, and no rain checks will be given. Each library will report their total donation count on Facebook throughout the program. To join in on the fun, bring your non-perishable donations to the circulation desk with your library card. Please note glass jars and expired food will not be accepted. For donation suggestions and additional information, call the Leach Library at (603) 432-1132.

Free Meals

Please join us for free,

family-friendly meals. Sonshine Soup Kitchen will be serving drive by to go meals on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 - 5 p.m.

Young Adult Craft

On Monday, Dec. 20, at 10 a.m., a virtual craft for teens will be available on the Leach Library Facebook page, blog, and YouTube channel. Miss Megan will demonstrate how to make your own wooden nutcracker. Craft kits are available by the main desk while supplies last.

Story Time

On Monday, Dec. 27, at 10 a.m., join Miss Jennifer for "A Snowy Day" story time! The video will be available to watch on the Leach Library Facebook page for a limited time.

Voter Information

The Supervisors of the Voter Checklist will meet at the Town Clerk's Office to correct the checklist and register voters on: Tuesday, Jan. 18, from 6 - 7 p.m. To register to vote, one must provide: Proof of Londonderry residency;

Proof of citizenship (passport, birth certificate, naturalization papers); Proof of age; Photo ID. Applicants for registration who possess proof of identity, age, citizenship, and domicile should bring that proof when they come to register. Qualified applicants who do not possess proof or who do not bring proof with them may register if they sign an affidavit attesting to their qualifications for identity, age, domicile and citizenship. Any questions contact Kristin Grages Supervisors

Continued on page 15



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Londonderry Police Log

Selections from the Londonderry Police Logs

Monday - Dec. 6

12:21 a.m. Suspicious Activity investigated on Willow Lane.

9:12 a.m. Disturbance investigated at the Londonderry High School.

9:34 a.m. Suspicious Activity investigated at Liberty Energy on Buttrick Road.

2:47 p.m. Warrant served and two arrests made by three officers on Redfield Circle. Shirley Coffey, 48, of Derry charged with Theft by Unautho-

rized Taking (\$0-\$1,000). Gregory Capano, 71, of Derry also charged with Theft by Unauthorized Taking (\$0-\$1,000).

3:49 p.m. Services rendered by three officers to keep the peace at the Londonderry Raceway on Grenier Field Road.

Tuesday - Dec. 7

10:26 a.m. Assisted the Londonderry Fire Department with services on Bridle Path at the Wallace Farm apartments.

2:09 p.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated on Bridle Path at the Wallace Farm apartments.

3:26 p.m. Auto Theft investigated at the Londonderry Raceway on Grenier Field Road.

3:32 p.m. Sudden Death investigated by four officers on Nelson Road.

3:38 p.m. Disturbance investigated at Home Depot on Nashua Road.

2:53 p.m. Services rendered for an Auto Theft

Continued on page 15

Police Log

Continued from page 14

reported at Market Basket on Michels Way.

5:24 p.m. Services rendered to keep the peace at the Londonderry Raceway on Grenier Field Road.

6:31 p.m. Suspicious Activity investigated on Fairway Road.

Wednesday - Dec. 8
8:05 a.m. Report of Wires Down investigated on Hovey Road.

8:21 a.m. School Check/Walk-Thru made at Londonderry High School.

10:05 a.m. School Check/Walk-Thru made at Londonderry Middle School.

4:55 p.m. Disturbance reported at Nutfield Petro-

leum on Nashua Road.
6:38 p.m. Welfare Check investigated by three officers on High Range Road.
8:19 p.m. Four officers assist another Police Department with an arrest on Dickey Street. John Alcantara, 45, of Londonderry, arrested on a warrant.

Thursday - Dec. 9

8:20 a.m. Welfare Check performed by four officers results in transportation to a Hospital from MacGregor Cut apartments on Stonehenge Road.

12:03 p.m. School Check/Walk-Thru services rendered at Londonderry Middle School.

12:41 p.m. Officer served warrant and made an arrest at the Merrimack County House of Correction. Stephen Jackson, 37, of Boscawen, charged with Possession

of Controlled/Narcotic Drugs; and Possession of Drugs (in a Motor Vehicle).

2:19 p.m. Services rendered for a Sexual Offender Registration on Pinyon Place.

2:29 p.m. Stolen motor vehicle recovered on Church Street at Goffstown.

3 p.m. Peace restored during Criminal Threatening on Treadway Lane.

Friday - Dec. 10

7:59 a.m. Services rendered for a Welfare Check on Longwood Avenue.

11:27 a.m. Services rendered for a Medical Emergency at the Manchester Boston Regional Airport.

1:58 p.m. Services rendered for a Welfare Check on Bridle Path.

12 p.m. Juvenile Offens-

es investigated at the Londonderry High School.

5:26 p.m. Criminal Mischief investigated on Industrial Drive.

8:52 p.m. Suicide Attempt/Threat investigated by five officers on Fieldstone Drive then transported to a hospital.

9:59 p.m. Shoplifting investigated at the RMZ Truck Stop on Rockingham Road.

Saturday - Dec. 11

12:35 p.m. Services rendered to keep the peace at the Londonderry Raceway on Grenier Field Road.

12:59 p.m. Shooting Complaint Services Rendered on Jewel Court.

5:53 p.m. Auto Theft reported at T J Maxx on Michels Way.

7:25 p.m. Suicide Attempt/Threat on Constitution Drive Taken/Re-

ferred to another agency.

Sunday - Dec. 12

12 a.m. Services rendered for report of Wires Down on Pheasant Run.

12:17 a.m. Assisted Londonderry Fire Department with services on Darrow Way.

2:55 a.m. Services rendered for Suspicious Activity on Manasquan Circle.

9:01 a.m. Domestic Disturbance on Winding Pond

Road results in subject taken to Family/Guardian/Other.

10:09 a.m. Four officers assisted the Londonderry Fire Department with an investigation on Nelson Road.

7:25 p.m. Four officers investigate a Disturbance on Scots Place

9:53 p.m. Domestic Disturbance investigated on Whittemore Road.

Around Town

Continued from page 13
of the Checklist Town of Londonderry 603-432-1100, ext 198.

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