

SHOP LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Londonderry Times

December 14, 2023 ♦ Volume 24 – Issue 46

A FREE Weekly Publication



Members of the Londonderry High School's Marching Band and Color Guard have been preparing for their performance in London's New Year's Day Parade by marching around the school.

Photo by Chris Paul

Lancers Prepare for Their Worldwide Performance

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Now that the football season has ended, the Lancers Marching Band and Color Guard has been focusing all their attention toward the worldwide event they will be participating in on the first day of January.

Music Director, Serge Beaulieu, his staff, and Friends of Music parents have been busy throughout the year preparing the music stu-

dents for the trip over the Atlantic Ocean to merry old England for London's New Year's Day Parade (LNYDP).

Between now and December 21, the band will be rehearsing wherever they can find space at the high school and when they're not practicing they'll be packing their bags, a process that will be done well in advance.

The Marching Band's suitcases, **continued on page 8**

Town Council Move Forward With Public Safety Articles

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Town Council and Budget Committee discussed two potential public safety warrant articles during the Dec. 4 school board meeting.

It was previously explained by Fire Chief, Bo Butler, and his leadership team that they were looking to hire an additional four firefighters in order to help with medical responses.

He explained during the previous meeting that if they were to get four more firefighters they would then be able to have a paramedic on

all of their fire engines, along with a reserve paramedic on what's known as a "fly car" which would essentially provide a paramedic assigned to a SUV type vehicle and would be able to go to calls as needed.

Butler noted previously they have over 8,000 seniors in the community, and with it comes more calls, and more severe calls, which makes paramedic resources even more valuable.

Finance Director, Justin Campo, presented two different options, one being that they

hired them on July 1, for a full year, or if they made the warrant article so they are hired on Jan. 1 instead for a half a year, in the first year.

Without overtime, it would cost about \$351,000 for a half year, and with the average overtime spent per year, it would be about \$422,000 for a half, for a tax rate increase of about 6.9 cents.

For a full year with overtime, it would cost about \$465,000 for a 7.6 cent tax rate impact, and with average overtime, it would cost about \$559,000, a 9.2 cent **continued on page 3**

New Purchasing Policy Approved by School Board

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The School Board approved the district's purchasing policy during its most recent board meeting.

The policy change makes it so purchases from \$0 to \$5,000 need to be authorized, by a District Administrator and a Business Administrator or Finance Director, and purchases \$5,000 or above need to be approved by the District Administrator and Business Administrator.

In addition, the policy also creates different thresholds for when purchase orders need to

go out for a formal bidding process.

Purchases \$0 to \$5,000 would not be required to go through a bidding process.

Any purchases in the \$5,001 to \$15,000 range would need to have three written quotes request when available, and if unavailable, "the reason the quotes are unavailable and any attempts made to obtain quotes must be documented."

For purchases \$15,001 and above would require a request of at least three written quotes in "compliance with policy DJE Bidding Requirements."

During the previous meeting, Business Administrator, Lisa McKenney, was asked to get data on the amount of purchase orders they had in the last year, and what thresholds they would have fallen under, in relation to the policy.

"In fiscal year 23 we did 4,031 purchase **continued on page 6**

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All Veterans' Tax Credit Reapproved by Town Council

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

During the Nov. 27 Town Council meeting, Assessor, Steve Hamilton, presented the Council with a proposed resolution to readopt the all veterans' tax credit.

Hamilton explained that they previously readopted the veterans tax credit, however, they were notified by the Department of Revenue Administration that they needed to readopt the all veterans' tax credit as well.

He said they currently have 169 residents

that receive the all veterans' tax credit, noting that the distinction between the two tax credits is when they served in the military.

Hamilton said if they didn't readopt the tax credit, those who benefit from it would go from having a \$750 credit towards their property taxes to a \$50 tax credit.

After the Town Council approved the readoption of the tax credit, Town Manager, Mike Malaguti, asked the Town Council if there was any appetite to use some of its fund balance

to reduce the tax burden, saying "I think the time now is to determine if the council will be using budgetary use of fund balance."

When asked, Finance Director, Justin Campo, said they currently have approximately \$6.2 million in the fund balance.

"At this point I believe we should leave it where it is and if you're going to decide to utilize it, it should be utilized to limit the tax impact for other warrant articles," said Campo, pointing to different warrant articles like capital reserve

funds warrant articles.

If the Council were to go that route, Campo said it would give the voters the chance to vote on whether or not they want to use any fund balance to reduce the tax rate.

He said with interest rates of 5% or more, they will be able to grow the fund balance more which "also assists in lowering the tax rate," he said, referring to the interest collected from money in

the fund balance.

Campo suggested that instead of using fund balance now, they could wait until the interest rates are lower, and wouldn't have as much of an impact in terms of growing the account.

The Council ultimately agreed not to use any of the fund balance right now, and Council Chair, John Farrell, said by keeping fund balance available, it will help give them some "lee-

way" if they don't get their tax bills back quick enough, noting that the DRA is late in sending out the tax bills.

"Tax bills are late," Farrell said during the Dec. 4 Town Council meeting, noting that they were double and triple checking the tax rate, after recently receiving it from DRA. He said they were hopeful to get them out by the end of last week.

Help Save Hawks and Owls

MARGE BADOIS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

This time of year, mice, rats, and other small rodents are searching for a nice, warm home for the Winter. Your house or barn is just what they're looking for.

Many resort to setting out poison to kill the pests. However, you may also be killing hawks, owls, and other animals that feed on rodents. The poison used does not kill immediately, making the dying rodent easy prey for predators.

Once eaten it is almost certain death for the bird or animal that has consumed it. These chemicals are used by most professional pest control services. Rodenticide poisoning induces hemorrhaging and seizures, which are just two of the ways it kills both rodents and predators.

In 2021, MA., had 2 known cases of bald

eagles dying of rodenticide poisoning. There have also been cases of domestic pets perishing because they ate a poisoned rodent. There are currently no "safe" rodent poisons, all toxic to other animals. So, what is the best alternative?

There are several options for live trapping and releasing. Havahart traps are well known and may be good for one at a time. Bucket traps such as the rolling log or trap door are good for catching multiple rodents.

The traps, "Live Mouse Traps", allow you to release the rodents unharmed someplace where that they won't be a nuisance.

Snap traps are an effective and humane way of controlling rodents. Many squirm at the thought of disposing of the "victims" found in the traps, but it is possible to clear the trap without touching the mouse.

Just walk out to the edge of the yard, lift the bar, and shake off onto the ground where it becomes food for some passing creature.

Electronic traps are effective and humane, but can be pricey. Sticky traps are cruel, the rodent ends up dying of thirst or starvation.

Prevention is key to rodent management. Do an inspection of the exterior of your home and seal up any opening where rodents could be entering. Silicone caulk can be used for small gaps. For larger openings, stuff the hole with steel wool before sealing with caulk.

Store food sealed in plastic containers. Don't leave pet food out for extended periods. Keep bird feeders away from your house. Cardboard, paper, and fabrics can attract rodents, so it's best to remove these items when no longer needed.

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Times Publisher Found Guilty of Political Ad Omissions

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

On Wednesday, Dec. 6, Judge, Kerry Steckowych, agreed with the state on five of six misdemeanor charges of not complying with RSA 664:16's political advertising disclaimer requirements towards

Deb Paul, Publisher of the Londonderry Times and Hudson Times.

On Aug. 24, 2022, Attorney General, John Formella, in the Election Law Unit announced that Paul was arrested on six misdemeanor counts related to Penalties for Political

Advertising for publishing political advertisements that did not comply with State election laws.

The charges filed against her were for violations of RSA 664:16, Identification of "Political Advertising," a misdemeanor and was char-

ged for failure to properly identifying political advertisements that she published in the Londonderry Times with appropriate language either at the beginning or the end of the advertisement as required by the law.

The Class A misdemeanor charges carry a maximum penalty of up to one-year at the county house of corrections and a fine of up to \$2,000.

On Wednesday, Nov. 22, Judge Steckowych heard the case in Derry District Court with Deb Paul pleading not guilty on all charges, saying that all along, she had been working with the state to understand the law and felt that she was

complying with what was being asked.

The state was represented by senior Assistant Attorney Generals, Myles Matteson and Matthew Conley, along with Investigator, Daniel Mederos.

They argued that Paul was warned twice, in 2019 and 2020, after the state had received complaints from Town Council Chairman, John Farrell, and Town Councilor, Tom Freda, as well as a local resident, Laura Morin.

They urged the judge to issue a guilty verdict because Paul neglected to label election ads with "Political Advertising" on top of the ad.

The state called four witnesses in the case,

School Board Chairman, Bob Slater, Town Councilor, Chad Franz, and resident, Janet Huttula. The state also had Mederos take the stand.

Paul's Attorney, Tony Naro, argued that the ads in question were clearly "political ads" and they were all marked as to who was paying for them.

The state's investigator even stated that he was able to find the ads in the paper without the "Political Advertising" banner.

Sentencing is scheduled to take place just before Christmas, on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at Derry District Court.

Note: Publisher Debra Paul was not involved in the writing of this article.

Town Releases Year-End Tax Rate to Property Owners

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry officials released an Informational Breakout of the Town of Londonderry's 2023 Property Tax Rate at the end of last week.

The breakdown is as follows:

The total dollar amount for the second half of 2023 was: \$15.65

The Municipal portion is \$ 3.47 (22.17%); the County is \$ 0.68 (4.35%); Local Education

is \$10.26 (65.56%); and State Education is \$ 1.24 (7.92%).

In the informational breakdown, the town gave examples of a 2023 property tax bill for non-utilities based on example house values.

It showed the annual Tax Bill reflecting the sum from the first half tax bill (July 2023) and the second half tax bill (January 2024).

A house valued at: \$400,000 would be \$6,260.

A house valued at: \$500,000 would be \$7,825.

A house valued at: \$600,000 would be \$9,390

As of Monday, Dec. 11, the town noted that the tax bills are currently available online and the Property Tax is due by January 18, 2024.

It was also noted that unpaid balances accrue interest at 8% per annum after that due date.

Safety

Continued from page 1 increase. Campo noted they would all include family plans and other benefits.

When the idea was first introduced earlier this year, Town Council Chair, John Farrell, said the question is "can our community support that from a tax standpoint."

It was decided to move forward with having a warrant article drafted that would call for all four firefighters at once for a total of \$495,000.

Farrell noted that they wouldn't be eligible for overtime for about a half year anyways due to their training.

The Town Council and Budget Committee also agreed to move forward with having an additional prosecutor position warrant article drafted, which would cost taxpayers approximately \$162,024. Campo noted that the cost would include a salary of \$95,000 and would also include a family health insurance plan along with all other ben-

efits offered.

Police Chief, Kim Bernard, previously noted that the request for an additional position is because of the caseload they are seeing for their one prosecutor because of the increase in the number of people being arrested, along with the complexity of different cases.

No decisions were made during the meeting about whether or not the Town Council or Budget Committee would be supporting the warrant articles or not.



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Editorial

A Generous Spirit

We at the Londonderry Times want to recognize the residents, organizations, and the volunteers who step up each year, time after time, being tremendously generous when it comes to helping out the less fortunate.

In the midst of the holiday rush, fulfillment of wishes on giving and Angel Trees, donations of food and gift cards to provide holiday baskets, and even more donations of toys and new and used clothing came in day in and day out.

The generosity is involved with many individuals, ranging from schoolchildren to those with businesses collecting socks, warm hats, coats, and toys.

Donations don't get where they need to be without the help of volunteers, and they, too, were in abundance in the holiday season that just passed. Whether it was carting gifts and food to a central location, matching gifts with the appropriately aged recipient, packing holiday food boxes, or even serving at soup kitchens, these people were ready to fill the need.

But the holidays are far from the only time for the generous spirit in our towns. Free clothing is offered throughout the year at several local churches. Sports teams and school clubs dedicate time to helping out the less fortunate, learning something about the world in the process.

In addition to various food pantries, the Community Meals Network hosts free meals for all ages several times each month throughout the year. Whether it's a hearty breakfast or a spaghetti dinner, with volunteers doing everything from donating the food to cooking the meals, serving the guests, and taking the time to sit down and chat with people who may not have many other opportunities for socializing.

We regularly announce fundraisers to benefit persons with serious medical conditions. It's sad and frightening that insurance is not available to meet these needs, but our fellow residents continue to step forward and host any number of creative activities to help out.

We'd be remiss if we didn't also highlight the volunteers who fill seats on town and school district boards and commissions. While some of their decisions may elicit criticism, that's the nature of a democracy. This doesn't detract for an instant from the appreciation they're due for being willing to leave their homes and take the action needed to keep our communities functioning.

If you're into the spirit of making a New Year's resolution, volunteering to help your community is a good one to top the list. To those who already do so, we offer our appreciation and thanks.

Letters

Higher Spending with Lower Enrollment

To the editor,
For those former members of the school board that seem to be confused let me provide a little education. The school board is the elected body that represents the people of Londonderry. The school board is not the "rubber-stamp-mouthpiece" for the school district administration.

Remember this is the school district that brought us higher spending with lower enrollment; multi-million dollar plans for new buildings and sports complexes; lowered standardized test scores; mask mandates; and the introduction of CRT. All of these "policies" were promulgated by a school board that seemed to roll over for every request. Ultimately previous school boards seem to have forgotten they represent the people not a failing school district. Glad we have a new direction with the current majority on the school board.

So, news that the school board has hired their own attorney for legal advice and guidance, that is separate from the districts legal team, is a very good thing for the people of Londonderry. My only question is what took them so long?

Jim Loiselle
Londonderry

Thank You

To the editor,
On behalf of the Londonderry Utilities Committee and Beautify Londonderry, I want to

thank the following local businesses for keeping 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 Derry 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 Utilities Committee

On the State's Abortion Limits

To the editor,
Recently, some state representatives got tripped up on the N.H. abortion limits. This is a very divisive issue where much emotion is found. The state house in Concord (endorsed by the Governor) has already compromised on an abortion limit that allows abortions during the first six months. The latest discussion considered much more restrictive limits. While most local state reps are right-to-life individuals, they realize the constituents we represent have varying views on this deeply personal decision.

Respecting these various views is key to common sense compromise in a state split government.

State representatives serve best when they recognize its not about them, but about those

that they represent.

Tom Dolan
State Representative
Londonderry

Full Time Kindergarten

To the editor
This March, I am thrilled that our School Board will be asking voters to support a shift to full day kindergarten for our youngest learners!

I had the privilege of serving on the School Board myself from 2020-2023 and am familiar with the benefits of full day kindergarten as well as the challenges currently facing Moose Hill related to space and square footage.

Many of us have, or will be, receiving our tax bills soon and many of us may be unhappy with increases we're seeing. Please do not let these increases impact support for full day kindergarten.

There are 234 cities and towns in NH. I was shocked and frankly, embarrassed, to learn that Londonderry is one of 8 towns in NH that does not offer any option for full day kindergarten in our public school setting. Like other towns, Londonderry students attend school 180 calendar days, but our current program, which is less than a proper half day, means that if we compare the hours our kindergarten students attend to the hours our elementary through high schoolers attend, our kindergarten students are attending the equivalent of 77 full school days- not 180.

The move to full day kindergarten would give

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Londonderry GREEN Team Hold Their Annual Swag Night



The Londonderry GREEN Team held its annual "Swag Night" fundraiser, inviting residents to the YMCA in Londonderry to pick out greens and ornaments they gathered to create holiday-themed door-hangers. Members helped folks that had signed up for the event with instructions tools and advice on building "swags."

Photos by Chris Paul

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State Rep. Perez Questions Voter Checklist Process

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

During the Dec. 4 Town Council meeting, State Rep., Kristen Perez, addressed concerns over the town's voter checklist during the public comment portion of the meeting.

"I'm here because you all know about a concern that I and other people in town have," she said.

She said it's been an ongoing issue with names being on the list, who no longer live in

town.

"In the past two months, there have been over 1,200 names taken off the voters list that have been sitting on the voter list from 2018 to 2023," Perez said.

Perez said there are "alot of names that were never removed from our voters checklist."

She stated that when they have elections where people win or lose by less than 10 votes, and "we know of perhaps at least 90 people who did not live in Londonderry voted in the

2020 election, it's of grave concern."

It was explained by Perez that the problem is that they are not being taken off the list on a regular basis, saying within 10 days of deeds being registered in the county it's sent to the town.

"There is absolutely no reason why our Supervisors of the Checklist aren't accessing that information," she said, noting they should look to see if people are no longer living in town who are on the list and

then sending them a 30 day notice.

Perez said she spoke to them and "they were completely unaware that that was being done."

"I think we need to do something about it," Perez said, noting that the Secretary of State, the town, and Town Council have no control over it and that she is currently working with the Attorney General's Office.

"This can not be happening," she said.

Town Council, John

Farrell, asked if she had filed charges over the 90 people who allegedly voted who didn't live in town, which Perez alluded to.

"I'm in the process of it," Perez said.

"No I haven't. I've been trying to work with our supervisors of the checklist to get the names off, that was my priority," she said.

She also noted that the most important thing to her is to get people who no longer live in town off of the voters list.

Farrell said she should speak to the Attorney General about the issue.

"Then please take it to the Attorney General's Office," he said.

Purchasing

Continued from page 1

orders," she said. Out of those, 3,673, would have fallen under the \$5,000 or less threshold.

A total of 358 would have fallen under the written quotes, or bidding process, based on the costs, however, 213 would have been excluded from it due to provisions in the policy.

"It leaves 145 purchase orders approximately," she said.

Out of those, she said 99 would fall under

the \$15,000 threshold and 46 would fall under the formal bidding process, along with other purchases that would normally require approvals.

She stated that if they were to go with the \$25,000 threshold as she first proposed, it would leave them with about 14 purchase orders.

"I think we could give it a try," McKenney said.

McKenney said she's worried about timing, saying it will take time to get bids, and then bring them back to the next School Board meet-

ing.

"That's a concern," she said.

But McKenney said if it delays necessary purchasing, they can address the concerns as they come.

School Board Chair, Bob Slater, said he is

hopeful through the new policy they will be able to save money on different items.

"Any dollar we can save here can go towards the education pieces we're trying to implement," Slater said.

Letters

continued from page 4

our youngest learners the gift of time- 103 additional days per year to learn foundational math skills, letters and phonics, and begin their journey as young readers. It would mean our special education students would have more hours available for needed services. It would increase our competi-

tiveness as a town- something we are missing out on now with all neighboring towns offering something we do not.

Please go to the Londonderry School Website or Kindergarten Committee to learn more and support full-day Kindergarten on the March ballot!

Thank you,
Amy Finamore
Londonderry

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OBITUARY

Wilfred P. Bernier



Wilfred P. Bernier, 80 of Londonderry, NH died peacefully with his family by his side, Saturday Dec. 9, 2023 at the Lahey Clinic, Burlington, MA. Wil was born in Willimantic, CT on September 2, 1943, a son of the late Wilfred P. Bernier, Sr. and Louise (Gagnon) Bernier. He had resided in Londonderry since 1967, formerly living in Derry, NH.

Wil graduated high school from Bishop Bradley in Manchester, NH and NHTI. He worked as a Computer Engineer with most of the years spent at Digital Equipment Corporation. After retirement, he was a driver for Enterprise. He was also a long-term member of the Knights of Columbus at St. Jude Parish always offering his services to the community.

Wil loved spending time with his family and friends playing cribbage and summering at the camp on Cow Island. He enjoyed traveling with his wife Billie Jean throughout the US, Africa, China, Peru, Europe, Iceland, Alaska, Panama and Belize. He was blessed as a man of many trades, he built their beautiful home in 1967, working on his cars and anything that needed repairing. He was always interested in others, compassionate and a great man. His faith was his beacon and his family was his life.

Wil is survived by his wife of 60 years, Billie Jean (Patnaude) Bernier of Londonderry, two sons, Paul Bernier of E. Kingston, NH, and Peter Bernier and his wife Allison of Albany, NH, two daughters, Penny Nickerson and her husband David of Concord, NH, and Pamela Swanick of Wolfeboro, NH and Daughter in law Tina Bances of Chelmsford, MA eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, one brother, Joseph Bernier of Weatogue, CT, one sister, Elise Driscoll of Sanbornton, NH, as well as several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his grandson, Spc. Nicholas P. Bernier June, 25 2011 while serving our country in Afghanistan.

Following cremation, a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Jude Parish, 435 Mammoth Rd., Londonderry on Saturday Dec. 16, at 10 a.m. The family will greet friends at the church from 9:30 - 10 a.m. Burial will follow at Forest Hill Cemetery, E. Derry. To send a condolence or for more information, please visit www.peabodyfuneralhome.com.

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Santa Claus Lands at Aviation Museum for Annual Event



Santa Claus landed at the Aviation Museum near the Manchester Boston Regional Airport on Saturday, Dec. 9, and was greeted by hundreds of families that gathered for his arrival. Mr. Claus was brought inside where visitors could see the museum, meet with Santa for a photo and were given a gift. This has become an annual tradition over the past several years.

Photos by Chris Paul

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Alaina Iannazzi
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Members of the Lancers Marching Band have been practicing wherever they can find space leading up to their trip to England for the LONDON New Year's Day Parade. Photos by Chris Paul

Lancers

continued from page 1
uniforms, and instruments will head off overseas well before the students board their plane. Customs will need to search them before the band departs on Wednesday, Dec. 27.

All-in-all, the Lancers trip will last eight-days, two of which will be mostly traveling, and besides participating in the parade, they will be taken on tours of the city, attending music venues, and guided through numerous tourist attractions in one of the worlds oldest cities.

The Band will have 20 chaperones traveling with them on the trip.

The roughly two-mile parade will take the marching band from Green Park, down Berkeley Street to Berkeley Square, where they will start the route. From Berkeley Street, they will head down Piccadilly to Piccadilly Circus.

The route then takes the band down Regent Street to Cockspur Street then to Trafalgar Square. The final leg of the parade takes participants down Parliament Street to the Westminster Bridge.

The Lancers will be performing selected songs from this year's halftime show of famous Motown songs.

There are expected to be about a half a million spectators along the parade route for the annual spectacle and millions watching the live satellite broadcast.

Beaulieu said, "The students and staff have been working really hard to prepare for the parade and the Gala Concert. We've had eight marching practices so far and three more to go. When all are done, I believe the students will be very well prepared."

He added, "The parents have also been preparing by sorting uniforms and packing all of the items needed while we're there."

The parade will start at noon GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) and be broadcasted live on PBS at 7 a.m. (EST) and streaming live on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/@londonparade.

The Symphonic Orchestra will also be performing during the trip. They will take part in the LNYDP Festival Concert on Saturday, Dec. 30, at St. John's.



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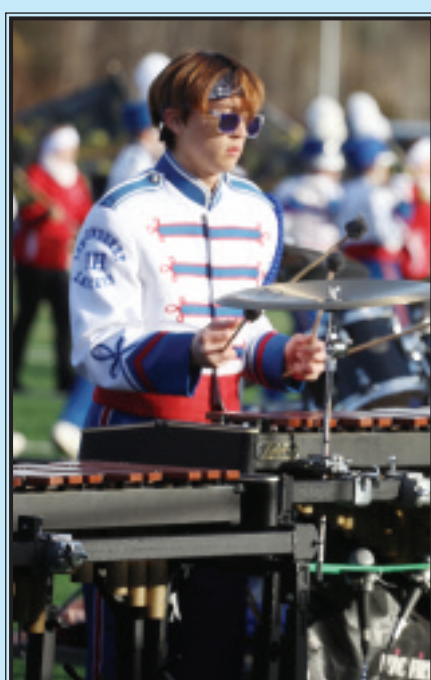
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Images taken during the final halftime performance of the year at the NHIAA Division I Football Championship. Photos by Chris Paul



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LONDONDERRY SPORTS

Londonderry Wrestlers Fall To Salem in Home Opener



Junior wrestler, David Pento, had three victories to start the season. Photos by Chris Paul

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High School Wrestling team began their Winter season with a very tough match-up. They were facing the Salem Blue Devils, at home, on Wednesday, Dec. 6, and the outcome wasn't great for the Lancers, who placed third in the state last year.

Salem brought nearly 50 wrestlers to the Dual Meet and handed Londonderry their first loss of the season, winning all, but two bouts that evening.

The final outcome of



Senior, Patrick O'Connor, at 190 lbs, had one of the two victories the Lancers had against Salem High School in their season opener.

the match was 71-12 in favor of the Blue Devils, who have built up a very impressive team of wrestlers over the past few seasons.

The meet began at the 215-pound weight-class, where Tyler Pavidis of Salem pinned Noah Pelletier in the first period.

At 106 lbs. Nikki Stylianos (LHS) fell to John Blocksidge in 3:04 minutes.

Salem went on to rattle off seven more pins before Lancer, Jonathan Millis, at 157 lbs., was able to hold off Cameron Monahan in a 20-5 decision that went to SHS.

The LHS team's only victories came at the

end meet.

At 175-pounds, junior David Pento, who finished last season undefeated, pinned Salem's Henry Griffin at 1:11 in the match.

The final contest of the evening came from senior Patrick O'Connor, at 190 lbs., who pinned Mark Leone at 2:58.

Pento and O'Connor were both first-place finishers in the Division I State Championship last season.

On Friday night, Dec. 8, the team traveled to Massachusetts for the Westford Duals meet.

At that event, the Lancers fell 54-26 against Taunton High School and lost 52-20

against St. Johns Prep.

In the Taunton dual, Londonderry had just four wins:

Dylan Nadeau got a forfeit win at 120 lbs.; Caleb Holden had a pin at 138 lbs.; Manny Perez toughed out a 3-1 decision at 150 lbs.; Jonathan Millis (157 lbs.) finished with a quick pin; and David Pento (175 lbs.) scored a 19-2 technical fall at four minutes.

Facing St. John's Prep, Londonderry tallied another four bout wins.

Lancer victories were scored by Jake McClory (126 lbs.) with a Fall at 5:37; Perez (150 lbs.) had a 6-4 decision win; Pento (175 lbs.) got his second technical fall of the evening, scoring 19-2 at four minutes; and Patrick O'Connor (190 lbs) pinned his opponent at 5:19 in the match.

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Lancer Swim Teams Take to the Pool to Start Season



Ali Von Pichl competing in the 200-Yard Freestyle



Braeden Raduazzo, 50-yard freestyle. Photos by Chris Paul

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High School Varsity Boys' and Girls'

Swim Teams had their meet of the season on Friday night, Dec. 8, and despite having a smaller team again this year,

they filled the pool area at the Londonderry Workout Club with participants and fans. Four other high

school swim teams competed at the home opener.

The Pinkerton Academy Astros brought a

large contingent of swimmers for both the girls and the boys. Also attending were: Milford High School, the Portsmouth Clippers, and the Winnacunnet Warriors. The team will host their second meet on Friday, Dec. 15.

Need for New Coaches Raises Athletic Department Budget

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The School Board heard a presentation from Athletic Director, James Lauzon, regarding his department's proposed budget.

"This year, I'm requesting a total of \$444,302," he said, noting that it's \$21,916 more than the current budget.

One of the line items is for game officials, with \$66,500 for the high school and \$17,000 for the middle school,

which he said "reflect the amount that we anticipate spending based on the NHIAA mandated cost and the number of games we anticipate playing."

Lauzon said he was also looking to propose adding three additional coaching stipends for the proposed budget, saying in his budget memo "as athletic participation continues to rise at both Londonderry High School and Londonderry Middle School,

some programs need additional coaches to balance out the student-athlete to coach ratio."

He said they are looking to add a stipend for the girls' high school tennis team, so they have a JV and varsity coach.

"The girls' tennis program competed at both the JV and Varsity levels last year, but the varsity coach volunteered her time to run the JV schedule. The JV team had 14 girls and

varsity team had nine," Lauzon wrote.

He said the JV team only has about half the matches as the varsity team, so the proposed stipend would be \$2,372.

At the middle school level, he is looking to

add stipends for the boys' and girls' lacrosse teams.

"Both programs are growing in participation and the Tri-County league in which we compete in at the middle school level is adding a

lower level so that schools can have two programs, similar to basketball, field hockey, and soccer, in which we have both an L and an M team," Lauzon wrote.

He said the boys'

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Pickleball Task Force Present Plans To Town Council

ALEX MALM
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry Pickleball Task Force went in front of the Town Council on Dec. 4 to present its findings and recommendation for a potential warrant article to add pickleball courts in town.

Pickleball Task Force

Chair, Brian Samolyk, said its a fast growing sport with it becoming a NCAA sport, and with some states making it a varsity sport, and with a desire for it from people in town, it lead to the task force being formed in order to examine what the future would like in Londonderry if voters

approve of it.

The Task Force came up with two different options, with one option being six different courts, and Vice Chair, Stephen Spaziani, explained that another option is 10 courts.

He explained that with either option they would have room for

bleachers and at at least two courts, in order to have tournaments.

"You could easily host a tournament here and hosting a tournament would be very lucrative for the town," Spaziani said.

The Task Force also looked at what other neighboring communities have for courts. Bedford has 6, Derry has 4, Litchfield has 8, Manchester has 12, Salem has 9, Nashua has 10, Hudson has 2, Hampstead has 6, and Acton has 2.

Samolyk said the problem with using other community courts is that some of them are beginning to not allow non-residents to use them.

"It won't be long before it affects us," he said.

For 6 courts, the cost is estimated to be between \$360,000 to \$560,000, and for 10 courts, the estimated cost is \$490,000 to \$740,000 to build the courts. It was noted that they contacted vendors who have done work in other communities who had good recommendations in order to get different estimates for different phases of the project.

Samolyk said they were looking to have the warrant article supported by the Town Council, saying they were looking to avoid a citizen petition warrant article this year.

"I need the Town Hall backed warrant [article the citizens' petition we know where that's going to go, nowhere," he said.

He also noted that

they could consider using some undesignated fund balance to help with the warrant article.

Budget Committee member, Sarah Meier, asked if they have a back up plan if they don't get it.

"I wish I had a rich grandparent or something like that," Samolyk said jokingly.

He said that unlike last year when the warrant called for engineering to be done, he thinks people in town will be supportive of a warrant article to have work done.

The Town Council ultimately agreed to move forward with having a warrant article drafted, although they didn't decide on if they should propose 6 courts or 10.

Coaches

continued from page 9
team had 46 students try out and kept 27 of them, and the girls' team had 23 players.

"Having two separate teams at two separate levels will require two separate head coaching stipends," he wrote. "These stipends are aligned to what we have in place for the other programs which is \$2,372 per stipend."

One question raised by Budget Committee Chair, Patrick Cassidy, was why some sports, like the equestrian team, have to pay for their own transportation for horses, shows, and other fees.

"All those expenses are incurred by the families," he said.

He asked if there is a way to assess what is a sport and what needs to be paid for by the dis-

trict.

Superintendent, Dan Black, said they base it off what sports fall under the NHIAA.

Assistant Superintendent, Jason Parent, explained that the concern is if they were to fund all of the clubs and activities they would then have to fund things like bass fishing for example, which would cost a significant amount of money for things like boats.



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Voter Information

The Supervisors of the Voter Checklist will meet at the Town Clerk's Office to correct the checklist and register voters on: Dec. 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.

Lions Christmas Tree Sale

The annual Londonderry Lions Christmas Tree Sale will continue each weekend while supply last. Fridays from 4 - 7 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sales will take place at the Dykstra Pavilion, 256 Mammoth Road, across from the Town Common.

Holiday Extravaganza

The Londonderry High School Classes of 2024 and 2026 are hosting a Holiday Extravaganza in the high school cafeteria and lobby on Friday Dec 15 from 5:30 - 8 p.m. A family ticket costs \$25 and you receive pictures with Santa, 2 gingerbread house kits, can make 2 bracelets, can make 2 reindeer food packages, unlimited coloring pages, letters to Santa, hol-

iday games, a showing of the movie "The Grinch", and face painting. Refreshments will be available for an additional cost. Please join to help fundraise for the classes and enjoy a great time out with your friends and family for the holiday!

GMILCS Fundraiser

The Friends of the Leach Library are hosting a fundraiser to help offset the onboarding cost to join the Greater Manchester Integrated Library Cooperative System (GMILCS). The fundraiser will continue through Saturday, Dec. 16. Stop by the library's main desk to purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win local restaurant gift cards or a framed painting donated by one of the Friends! Monetary donations are also welcome by cash or check

(payable to "Friends of the Leach Library"). For additional information, please call Erin Matlin, Library Director, at 603-432-1132.

Dragoneers Club

On Monday, Dec. 18 from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. come join the Dragoneers Club for a standalone quest on in the Leach Library Meeting Room. All experience levels welcome. Registration is required and begins on Monday, Dec. 11. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1132.

Space Rangers

During this one-hour, space-themed program, students ages 9-14 will explore different space science topics through hands-on activities and games on Thursday, Dec. 21 from 4 - 5 p.m., at the Leach Library. Registration is required and begins on Thursday, Dec. 14. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1132.

A Very Merry Book Discussion

Do you love cozy Christmas romances? Then this is the book discussion hosted by the Leach Library is for you.

On Monday, Dec. 18 at 11:30 a.m. and discuss Debbie Macomber's novel *The Christmas Spirit*. Cocoa and cookies will be served. Registration is limited to 15 participants and begins on Monday, Nov. 13. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1132. Copies of the book will be available to check out at the library's main desk.

Holiday Break Offerings

From Tuesday, Dec. 26 until Friday, Dec. 29 stop by the Leach Library for a variety of crafts, coloring pages, and a Guess It jar available during Holiday Break. Enjoy working on them at the library or take them home for later.

Game Time

Come to the Leach Library on Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 2 p.m. for Game Time. Participants will compete in a variety of Minute-to-Win-It style challenges for a chance to win prizes. This program is designed for ages 5 and up. Registration is required and begins on Wednesday, Dec. 20. To register, visit the library's online event calendar or call (603) 432-1127.

Laser Tag for Teens

On Tuesday, Dec. 26 from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., teens and tweens are invited to a Laser Tag experience in the Leach Library Meeting Room. Groups of teens will play against each other while moving through a series of obstacles. Registration is required and begins on Tuesday, Dec. 19. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1132.

Game On Supersized Edition

On Thursday, Dec. 28 from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., teens and tweens will be able to play an assortment of game night favorites in giant form at the Leach Library. Games include Human Hungry Hippos, Yahtzee, and more. Registration is required and begins on Thursday, Dec. 21. To register, visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1132.

Coding Club

On Wednesday, Dec. 27 from 4 - 5 p.m., students in grades 4-8 will be able to explore a variety of coding exercises and programs including using screen-free coding robots, independ-

continued on page 15

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Londonderry Police Log

Selections taken from the daily Londonderry Police Logs

Monday, Dec. 4

4:35 a.m. Services rendered, by six officers, for a Domestic Disturbance on Mammoth Road. Timothy Janul, 43, of Londonderry, charged with: Domestic Violence (Simple Assault - Physical Contact). Jordan Carasquillo, 22, of Methuen, MA., Charged with: Domestic Violence (Simple Assault - Physical Contact).

9:13 a.m. Disturbance investigated at the 7-Eleven on Rockingham Road.

9:32 a.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated at Walgreen Drug Store on Nashua Road.

6:11 p.m. Services rendered for a Disturbance on Berlang Road.

7:52 p.m. Warrant served and arrest made at Valley Street Jail, Manchester. Franklin Rodriguez, 21, of Manchester, charged with: Disobeying an Officer; Operation after Certified as a Habitual Offender; Traffic Control Device Violation; and two counts of Reckless Operation.

10:48 p.m. Services rendered for a complaint at the MacGregor Cut apartments on Stonehenge Road.

Tuesday, Dec. 5
7:51 a.m. Warrant ser-

ved and arrest made by four officers on Charleston Avenue. Dylan Cote, 23, of Londonderry, charged with: Simple Assault - Bodily Injury; and Criminal Mischief.

11:13 a.m. Arrest made while serving a warrant on Whittemore Road. Melissa Rivera, 30, of Londonderry, charged with: Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

11:51 a.m. Services rendered to Keep the Peace on Mammoth Road.

12:52 p.m. A Domestic Disturbance on Mammoth Road leads to an arrest made by five offi-

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Around Town

Continued from page 13

ent online coding, and other guided activities online at the Leach Library. This program is open to participants ages 9-14. Registration is required and begins on Wednesday, Dec. 20. To register, please visit the library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1132.

PJ Story Time

On Thursday, Dec. 28 at 7 p.m. ready for bedtime in cozy pajamas to listen to a couple of bedtime stories and sing along to a lullaby at the Leach Library. Don't forget a stuffed animal or blanket to snuggle. Registration is not required for this program and drop-ins are welcome.

Make and Take Slime

Have you always wanted to try making your very

own slime? The Leach Library will have all the ingredients and a recipe to make your own unique Winter Slime to play with and take home on Friday, Dec. 29 at 2 p.m. This program is for children 5 and older. Registration is required and begins on Friday, Dec. 22. To register, visit the library's online event calendar or call (603) 432-1127.

True Crime Podcast Discussion

On Thursday, Jan. 11 at 6:30 p.m., come to the Leach Library to discuss all seven episodes of Bear Brook: Season 1, a case that happened right here in NH. Listen to all episodes for free on Spotify, Stitcher, Apple Podcasts, or at BearBrookPodcast.com. Registration opens on Thursday, Jan. 4 and is limited to 15 participants. To register, visit the

library's online calendar or call (603) 432-1132.

Republican Meeting

On Thursday, Feb. 2, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., the Londonderry Republican Committee (LRC) will meet at the Long Blue Cat Brewery, 298 Rockingham Rd., Londonderry. Members, friends, and affiliates are welcome. They will be discussing upcoming Town and School Board elections. Come and join like minded citizens for a discussion and enjoy a drink in a friendly atmosphere. For more information: <https://LondonderryGOP.org>, www.facebook.com/LondonderryGOP, or contact Chair Jonathan Esposito at lrc@londonderry-gop.org

What's New In Concord

All are Welcome to Meet and Talk with Representatives Ronn Dunn and

Kristine Perez. Ask questions and let them tell you about Bills affecting Londonderry for the 2024 Session on Jan. 9, from 6 - 7:30 p.m., location down stairs at the Leach Library.

Meet Your Neighbors

The Londonderry Women's Club brings diverse women together; creating an environment that nurtures friendships while encouraging community involvement through volunteerism. If you would like more information about the Londonderry Women's Club or are thinking about joining a group that gives back to the community, check us out on Facebook, visit our website at www.londonderrywomensclub.org or email info@londonderrywomensclub.org.

Veteran Credit Renewal

Do You Currently Receive A Veteran Credit

On Your Property? If you do, it is time to renew. Please come in to Town Hall and go to the assessing department to fill out a renewal form, not able to make it in than call (603) 432-1100 X 135 and we will mail the form to you.

Drop-In Tech Help

Curious about reserving library materials online from home? Want to learn how to access our various databases and digital collections? Looking to get started with Libby and Hoopla? Need help navigating a new device? The Leach Library reference staff has you covered. Starting in September, just stop in any Thursday between 10 a.m. and noon the staff will provide one-on-one assistance tailored to your technology-related needs. For more information no appointment is necessary or to make an

appointment for another time, please call the library at (603) 432-1132.

Be Kind - Do Good

The Sonshine Soup Kitchen located at 6 Crystal Ave., Derry, is seeking Volunteers age 18+ for help preparing and serving drive-through meals: Monday-Thursday, 3 - 6 p.m. For more information or if you have questions call 603.437.2833.

Free PFOA Water Test By NHDES

You can request a water sampling here: Southern NH PFOA Investigation Private Well-Testing Request Form Survey (surveymonkey.com) Questions contact Amy Rousseau | PFAS Response Administrator - MtBE Remediation Bureau at NH Department of Environmental Services Email: Amy.Rousseau@des.nh.gov, Phone: 603.271.8801

Police Log

Continued from page 14

cers. Brittany Cavallo, 36, of Londonderry, charged with: Domestic Violence (Simple Assault - Physical Contact).

1:06 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Olde Country Village Road leads to an arrest made by four officers. George Themelis, 59, of Manchester, charged with: Conduct After Accident; Reckless Conduct; and Criminal Mischief.

2:12 p.m. Services rendered for Criminal Threatening at Pawquet's Play & Stay on Rockingham Road.

2:30 p.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated at Holy Cross Cemetery on Gilcreast Road.

5:36 p.m. Three officers investigate a disturbance at Home Depot on Nashua Road.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

8:19 a.m. Services rendered to Keep the Peace at Elliot Primary Care/Urgent Care on Buttrick Road.

9:23 a.m. Juvenile Offenses investigated on Severance Drive.

11:58 a.m. Disturbance at Market Basket on Michels Way results in transport to a hospital.

1:44 p.m. Medical Emergency at Manchester Boston Regional Airport. 4:46 p.m. Welfare Check investigated on Lorraine Drive.

6:30 p.m. Services rendered by two officers for a Welfare Check on Vista Ridge Drive.

7:29 p.m. Three officers serve a warrant and make arrest on Charleston Avenue. Theodore Thurston, 38, of Lynn, MA., charged with: Theft By Deception of over \$1,501.

8:28 p.m. Four officers respond to a Disturbance on Oakridge Drive and make an arrest. Cameron Giordano, 19, of Londonderry, charged with: Disorderly Conduct; Indecent Exposure/Gross Lewdness; two counts of Simple Assault - Physical Contact; two counts of Unlawful Possession/intoxication; two counts of Resist Arrest/Detention.

Thursday, Dec. 7

7:17 a.m. Warrant served and arrest made on Holstein Avenue. Kelly

Maggio, 34, of Londonderry, charged with: Possession of Controlled Drug (Schedule 1-4); Transporting Drugs in a Motor Vehicle; Controlled Drug; Controlled Premises Where Drugs Kept; and Arrested on two Warrants. **8:09 a.m.** Criminal Mischief investigated at Manchester Boston Regional Airport.

9:17 p.m. Warrant served and arrest made at Derry District Court on Courthouse Lane. Brandie Jones, 33, of Nashua, charged with: Disobeying an Officer; Operating After Certified as a Habitual Offender; and Reckless Operation.

1:42 p.m. Suspicious Activity investigated by four officers on Gilcreast Road.

3:53 p.m. Services rendered by five officers for Juvenile Offenses on Acropolis Avenue.

7:51 p.m. Motor vehicle stop leads to an arrest made on Rockingham Road at Page Road. Three

officers assist with charging: Jason Bailey, 22, of Manchester, with: Drive After Revoked/ Suspension (Reckless Driving).

Friday, Dec. 8

2:30 p.m. Six officers render services for Suspicious Activity at Moose Hill School.

2:53 p.m. Services rendered for Larceny/Forgery/Fraud on Albany Avenue.

3:07 p.m. Sexual Offender Registration investigated on Happy Lane.

3:47 p.m. Four officers respond to a Disturbance at Market Basket on Michels Way.

4:27 p.m. Arrest made at Home Depot on Nashua Road after a complaint. David Allen, 36, of Raymond, charged with: Bench Warrants; Criminal Trespass; Inhaling Toxic Vapors For Effect; Disorderly Conduct; Breach Of Bail; and two counts of Willful Concealment - Theft.

6:59 p.m. Four officers

investigate Car Break-ins at Planet Fitness on Orchard View Drive.

Saturday, Dec. 9

11:53 a.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated on Wallace Circle.

2:20 p.m. Four officers respond to a Domestic Disturbance on Noyes Road and make an arrest. Aidan Watson, 18, of Londonderry, charged with five counts of Domestic Violence (Simple Assault - Physical Contact); Falsifying Physical Evidence (Alter, Destroy, Hide); and two counts of Criminal Threatening - Conduct.

4:49 p.m. Services ren-

dered for Larceny/Forgery/Fraud at Planet Fitness on Orchard View Drive.

5:44 p.m. Suspicious Activity investigated on Kimball Road

Sunday, Dec. 10

4:58 a.m. Suspicious Activity investigated at the Sleep Inn on Perkins Road.

1:35 p.m. Services rendered for Juvenile Offenses on Ela Avenue.

6:37 a.m. Three officers conduct a Welfare Check on Golen Drive.

9:51 p.m. Animal Control responds to a report of a Dog Bite on Stokes Road.



TOWN OF LONDONDERRY ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Londonderry Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023 at 7 P.M. in Moose Hill Council Chambers to consider the following:

CASE NO. 12/20/2023-1: Request for a special exception from LZO section 5.12.5 to allow a home occupation for a child care facility. The parcel is located at 15 Chestnut Hill Dr., in the Agricultural-Residential (AR-1) zoning district. Tax Map 8, Lot 6-48. Brenda & Kenneth Birdsall (Owners) and Kimberly Birdsall (Applicant).

CASE NO. 12/20/2023-3: Request for a variance from LZO section 7.7.E.3 to allow an electronic changeable messaging sign. The parcel is located at 37 Nashua Rd., in the C-1 zoning district. Tax Map 7, Lot 119-2. The Southland Corporation (Owner) and Sousa Signs, LLC (Applicant).

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