

# THE Hudson Times

December 21, 2023 ♦ Volume 1 – Issue 8

A FREE Weekly Publication



## FLAG UNFURLED

Members of the Hudson Fire Department help to hang the American flag from the ladder truck during the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Alvirne Hills House on Saturday morning. See more information on pages 4 and 5.

*Photo by Chris Paul*

## School Budget Revenue Decreases Due to End of Federal Programs

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Budget Committee came together for two consecutive meetings on Dec. 6 and Dec. 7 to discuss revenue for Hudson public schools.

Business Administrator, Jennifer Burk, explained that there are a variety of revenue sources, which include property taxes

raised through the town, special education aid, vocational aid, and other state revenue sources like ROTC funds. Federal sources include Medicaid and grants, although more requirements have seen a decrease in this revenue stream over the past few years. Some preschool students also pay tuition into the system, while the dis-

trict has a few investments and athletic fees. Donations and other local sources play a “catch-all” role.

The expiration of federal support from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) and Project AWARE represented an end to what has been a large source of additional funding

**continued on page 3**

## Selectmen OK Warrant Article to Study Town Infrastructure

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Board of Selectmen was presented with a citizen petition warrant article for an independent infrastructure study during its Dec. 12 meeting.

Hudson Town Administrator, Steve Malizia, explained that they were required to send it to the ballot, since it met the requirements. “It actually has more than the needed number of valid signatures of verified registered voters,” he said. While they didn’t have a choice about sending it to the ballot or not, Malizia noted that the Board of Selectmen had the chance to make a recommendation. “Basically, tonight you either recommend or not recommend the

article,” Malizia said.

The article states:

“Should the Town of Hudson complete a comprehensive infrastructure study independently run by a qualified third-part[y] contractor unrelated to the Town of Hudson or the Nashua Regional Planning Commission? This study will include the following: Comprehensive traffic study and impact for the entire town to include all developments being built and approved to be built. Emergency services review of staffing, equipment, and training needed based on the facilities and anticipated demand from all the development. This includes, Police, Fire, and DPW. Impact on our schools based on the high-density housing

and the housing development under construction. Sewer and water needs for the town. Review the current impact fees assigned to developers based on this study. The study results are expected to be used to upgrade and improve the Master Plan, Zoning ordinance, Land Use regulations, and to determine the impact to budgets/taxpayers and equipment/facilities/ staffing needed to function.”

Malizia explained that since there is no appropriation attached to it, they wouldn’t be able to spend any money on it. “So, what’s the point of putting it on the ballot?” Board of Selectmen Chair, Marilyn McGrath, asked.

**continued on page 2**

## Local Elementary Schools Look to Invest in New Learning Programs

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Budget Committee met on Dec. 13 where they discussed the combined elementary school budget for Hudson.

Dr. H.O. Smith Elementary School Principal, Mary-Ellen Labrie, was at the meeting with Superintendent of Schools Daniel Moulis.

“This is a collaborative effort among all four elementary principals,” said Labrie. “We base it using achievement data, educational resources, facility needs, schooling district goals, teaching input, and while comparing prices to be mindful of budget costs.”

The total budget is up

slightly, mainly due to pre-existing contractual obligations with teachers. Supply costs are also up due to inflation, much of which will be covered using federal funding before it expires next September.

Elementary schools also hope to invest in several new learning programs, like magnetic reading for grades 2-5 along with the Being a Writer program.

“Magnetic reading ensures that all students are getting the right support for succeeding as a grade level reader,” said Labrie. “Being a Writer was adopted in grades K-5, it is a research-based program that integrates all the components of writing and embeds some

social skills development to foster students’ communication skills across various areas while becoming responsible and caring members of their classroom.”

There was an emphasis on maintaining software subscriptions needed to help students from the preschool level through fifth grade. The principal singled out their Math in Focus software as particularly important for her students.

Other notable requests included new radios for all school staff, classroom furniture replacement, and increased expenditures in the food services program.

H.O. Smith is also **continued on page 6**



# HCTV Looks to Phase Out Submissions from Older Formats

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Cable Utility Committee met on Dec. 11 to discuss what Chairman Mike O'Keefe hoped would be a final review of Hudson Community Television (HCTV) policies and procedures.

"We've been working on redoing the policies and procedures document for a while now," said O'Keefe. "Most of what had to change was to bring it up to date with current technology."

Some proposed changes included the creation of an all-high-definition channel and setting 720p as the minimum standard for anyone looking to submit audio/video content. With the pro-

gression of technology, HCTV Director Jim McIntosh is struggling to upscale anything from older formats.

"We're just trying to avoid people having a VHS tape and wanting to put it on air or a CD or DVD because the technology is not there anymore," explained McIntosh. "We don't have a lot of equipment that plays that back, to rip some of the stuff lately I've had to take it home where I have a couple of old units I keep running."

HCTV has already changed the type of media used on their channels with greater scrutiny on non-profit submissions. The Cable Committee was opening to

allowing submissions in a low definition on a limited basis.

"For some of these things, there's always going to be some kind of exception, like when we do a historical documentary," said McIntosh. "But bringing in a whole show or a whole bunch of graphics in standard definition doesn't work."

He added that his office was already "overwhelmed" with operations and hoped the strict standards would reduce their workload. The Cable Committee unanimously voted to accept all proposed changes and will go to the Board of Selectmen for approval.

Under federal law, there

is no provision for public access television to collect money through streaming services, leading to a decline in revenue for HCTV over the past few years. The Director announced staff reduction measures to save money, like incorporating their videographer and assistant positions into a single job. However, McIntosh worried that "we're going to be begging the taxpayers for help" in a few years without some change to the law.

There will be a new set

of guidelines for political broadcasts on HCTV moving forward. Any candidates running for a Hudson office will have the opportunity to come in a couple of weeks before an election to introduce themselves to the public. Every candidate will receive a printed outline on how to submit content.

McIntosh announced that the annual holiday greetings video was "a real success," although he was disappointed that fewer departments participated compared to 2022. He

promised to reach out ahead of time for 2024.

HCTV recorded several school holiday specials through the end of the month, including Alvirne High School and Hudson Memorial School's combined jazz concert and the Wreaths Across America Ceremony. All specials are available on the HCTV website.

The Cable Utility Committee is scheduled to meet again on Wednesday, Jan. 8, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Room of Town Hall.

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## Infrastructure

Continued from page 1

Selectman, Kara Roy, added that she thought it was a good idea, but it's essentially advisory.

The Board of Selectmen ultimately approved recommending the warrant article, with McGrath abstaining.

She noted that she thought the warrant article was looking for more than what is laid out in the warrant article. "I think they actually intended something far more encompassing," McGrath said.

This year's Deliberative

Session is scheduled to take place on Feb. 3 at 9 a.m., for the town, with the school district's Deliberative Session slated to take place on Feb. 10 at 9 a.m. The town's election is scheduled to take place this year on March 12.

The next Board of Selectmen meeting is slated to take place on Tuesday, Jan. 9 starting at 7 p.m.

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# Alvirne High School Look to Expand Computer Science Next Year

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson Budget Committee came together for two consecutive meetings on Dec. 6 and 7 to discuss spending priorities across the school system. Steven Beals, Alvirne High School Principal, was at the second meeting to explain what an expected decrease in spending would mean for his facility.

"Overall, our budget is down, that is taking into account declining enrollment, it does not mean the learning needs of kids aren't significant, and frankly, as I

said a year ago, they're more significant than I've seen in my career," Beal argued.

He focused on computer science and ESL courses, emphasizing the need for a Computer Science II class to build on skills learned in Computer Science I.

"We have a sophomore or a junior who signs up for Computer Science I. They're passionate about it, they're doing a great job, they want what comes next," said Beal. "Career and tech-ed is our CT [Computer Technology] area," said Beal.

The Budget Committee seemed open to investing in a better computer science course and CT in general, even with overall spending cuts.

"From my perspective, that's an investment in education," said Committee Alt-Clerk, Shawn Murray.

Technology has been a focus, and there were spending increases in a few areas, including IT upgrades for the school. A standard cost is to replace laptops every four years, with around a quarter of the total devices replaced for any given year in a continu-

ous cycle. All schools require firewall updates and a switch from Windows 10 to Windows 11.

Beal was cautiously optimistic about staffing in some areas, with lingering concerns about funding for the credit recovery program, special educational teachers, and paraprofessionals.

"This school year, we are able, for the first time, to be fully staffed in three years in math and science," he said. "Fully staffed in English, which we couldn't do last year as well, although we're not fully

staffed in special education this year. Turnover is a significant challenge."

Alvirne has around 90 professional staff members, including teachers, school administrators, and counselors. Most are fully certified, although the high school has a process to certify instructors within three years of being hired.

"With the term 'alternate certification,' what are the parameters for hiring an English teacher under an alternate certification program?" asked Vice-Chairman, Bill Cole.

Superintendent, Daniel

Moulis, explained that such an alternative certification would hire a person with a bachelor's degree but no teaching certificate. "As part of a three-year process, they are assigned a mentor, and then they're assigned three years, where they must complete certain competencies and courses. They're put on an alternative pathway towards a certification."

The Hudson Budget Committee is scheduled to meet again on Wednesday, Jan. 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the Buxton Room of Town Hall.

## Revenue

continued from page 1

over the past few years.

"The two substantial programs are coming to an end, are those programs that are normally renewed in the federal budget?" asked Committee member, Shawn Jasper.

Burk responded that these programs were unlikely to be renewed. "We're not expecting anything further from ESSER, and Project AWARE was a five-year grant program, that is definitely coming to an end."

Superintendent, Daniel Moulis, gave a general presentation for the revised districtwide budget, which has seen a few cuts since October following suggestions from the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

"The revised budget shows a \$317,381 decrease from the original FY 24 budget," said Moulis. "The districtwide budget overall shows a decrease of \$628,209."

Despite an overall decrease in spending, some areas, including substitute teachers and benefits to fill some long-term vacancies,

will see more funding. There will also be what he called a "merit pool" to give bonuses to support staff based on evaluation results.

Jasper had concerns about the salary for School Board members, who have taken a \$1 salary for the past two years, a trend set to continue under the proposed budget.

Committee member, Kevin Walsh, had questions about food service, specifically a \$100,000 transfer in the budget.

"I'm just curious, has there been any payout, any transfer to the food services over the past five years,"

asked Walsh.

Burk replied that such transfers were common during the pandemic when there was an influx of funding to "cover the program." Food services cannot legally run a deficit in NH, and transfers from the School Board to cover expenses are not uncommon. She explained that the \$100,000 transfer was to cover any possible debt.

Other questions came from the transportation program for students from homeless Hudson families. Registered contractors provide transportation to students who qualify. Burk explained that the "placeholder" budget of \$140,000 to cover "the number of homeless students we may see for year-to-year."

While such a program is legally mandated by the

state, Committee members expressed skepticism of the high costs, which could be up to \$400 to transport one student according to Burk.

"It would be cheaper for us to rent a home for a homeless family than to pay \$400 per day for transportation!" Jasper complained, calling for changes to the program.



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# Editorial

## Happy Holiday to All Our Readers

Every year this editorial is light-hearted and full of good wishes. As we pass through the long dark days of winter and head into the New Year, we traditionally take time to reflect on the year just ending, and set resolve to do things differently in the days ahead. Looking back at a year of meaningless death, abjection, bullying, natural disasters, international turmoil, and not to mention the hard economic times many in our communities are enduring, we can't help but go into the most wonderful time of the year with heavy hearts. The happiest time of the year can be the saddest and most difficult time for many.

Recently I have gone to many charitable events and have witnessed such goodwill towards our fellow residents. I can't stop from welling up with a feeling that mankind is not lost, only hidden. I wish more people, could see what I see, these simple gestures leave a great impact on the world.

Most importantly, how about listening to and working with people to find ways to solve the problems that face us all, not just doing the same thing but taking a different approach for the greater good of the town and the residents in it. That means having a willingness to be open to other views; we could very well learn something.

Let's try seeing all sides of an issue, rather than only the one that

benefits one group. It's not easy to be opened minded, but it's worth the effort. We don't elect special interest representatives, our officials are supposed to represent all of us.

The start of a new year brings with it a chance to begin again. We suggest getting involved in town government, volunteering for boards, non-profits and so forth. It's your participation that can make big difference.

The fact that you are holding this newspaper in your hands is a tribute to all of the businesses that have shown their desire for a locally owned hometown newspaper to exist. We hope we have made those businesses feel good about how their advertising dollars are being spent.

Being in the news industry can be quite difficult, as we tend to see more of the ugly side of the world than most. We urge you to reach out to your loved ones and get together in the true spirit of the holidays. A spirit not centered around gifts and material, but around love and appreciation of those close to us.

Will there ever be peace on Earth? More than likely not. We should try to learn from the spirit of the Christmas season. To keep those bereaving in our hearts despite the harshest part of human nature, work sincerely toward "Peace on Earth and good will toward men". Let's hope for the New Year to be filled with peace!

## Hill House Holds Wreaths Across America



The fifth annual Wreaths Across America ceremony was held on Saturday, Dec. 16, at Alvirne Hills House with the town officials, community members, veterans, fire fighters, police, scouts, JRROTC, and state representatives paying tribute to the fallen veterans. Location Coordinator, Christina Madden, and sponsor, Hudson Memorial VFW Post 5791, organized the event and ran the ceremony before having a number of residents head out to place wreaths at a number of gravesites throughout the town's cemeteries.

Madden spoke at the event and introduced a number of speakers. Mike Armand of Hudson Fire began the event by singing the National Anthem. Chaplain, Mike Mondoux, of American Legion Post 48 led the service with a prayer. Local veterans, representing of each branch of the Armed Forces, presented a wreath in honor of veterans of their branch of service as well as one for POW/MIA. Followed by speakers, Hudson Selectperson, Kara Roy, and VFW Senior Vice Commander, Denis Querrard.

*Photos by Chris Paul*

## THE Hudson Times

*The Hudson Times is a weekly publication covering Hudson related news and information, it is available at a number of drop-off locations throughout the town.*

**Nutfield Publishing, LLC**

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# Selectmen Move Forward with Sewer Equipment Buy

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Public Works Department went in front of the Hudson Board of Selectmen on Dec. 12 to discuss a proposal to purchase sewer camera equipment, which staff said is "used in their daily operations and is a key component for us to identify our sewer infiltration and inflow."

"This equipment is used for sewer and drainage mains and sewer service line repairs," Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima, and Public Works Director, Jason Twardosky, wrote in a

memo to the Selectmen. "Our current equipment is beyond its service life and is spending more time at the repair shop than in the field."

Dhima said the biggest reason why they decided to pursue new equipment is because of the amount of time being spent on fixing their current equipment. He explained that currently they must send it out to get fixed by the manufacturer, which normally takes about two to three weeks to get back.

"Basically, for the last couple of years its spending

more time at the manufacturer getting fixed than it is in actual service," Twardosky said during the meeting. Dhima said the equipment that they are looking to purchase is much more advanced than what they have now, saying it would be "top of the line everything."

"The new equipment will include a state-of-the-art high-definition camera, and the latest safety features including a lifting hydraulic station for the equipment and the staff operating it," the memo to the Selectmen read. "The

entire control command center and equipment will be within a 16-foot-long box truck."

Dhima explained that the funds to pay for the equipment will be coming in part from donations they've received in the past, by people who requested more sewer than they were entitled to. He added that it adds up to about \$80,000 and the rest would be coming from the sewer fund. "Our budget for this contract is \$315,000 and we requested two additional features, lateral sewer camera and a reverse camera as

an add-on option," Dhima and Twardosky wrote in a memo. Selectmen, Bob Guessferd, noted it's not going to affect the tax rate or anything, because of where the funding is coming from. "Obviously it has great utility," he said.

In total, it was said the

cost will be \$388,430.43, which includes \$308,355 for the base, the cost of the lateral camera, which is \$74,177.43, and \$5,898 for the reverse camera.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved awarding the bid to CN Wood Environmental, LLC.

## Programs

Continued from page 1

specifically looking to fund its own counselor. Currently, H.O. Smith and Library Street School share a counselor. As with other schools in Hudson, all elementary schools are looking to reduce turnover for para-

professionals.

Director of Special Services, Rachel Borge, was also at the meeting to answer questions related to the McKinney-Vento Act and how the law relates to homeless students in the school system.

"The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal piece of leg-

islation put in place to establish educational stability for students when their families are experiencing homelessness," said Borge. "It does go into great detail on what constitutes unaccompanied youth, those who have to flee a dangerous situation and are living on their own."

According to the Director, the most common reason for homeless students since the pandemic has come from the sale of rental units and houses, where new owners are unwilling to continue an existing lease while former tenants were

unable to find new housing in time.

"Because it cost too much, or they just couldn't find new housing?" asked Selectmen liaison David Morin.

Borge stated that the problem was caused by "a little bit of both," with expensive housing, often poorly suited for families. Many costs related to the program are tied into Hudson's special education budget. She encouraged Committee members and the public to research the McKinney-Vento Act to learn more.

## OBITUARY

Lorraine Francis DeMinico



Lorraine Francis DeMinico (Foley) of Hudson, NH, passed away peacefully on Dec. 17, 2023 at Bridges by Epoch in Nashua, NH.

She was born on March 6, 1940 to Francis and Mary Foley in Boston, MA and grew up in Charlestown, MA. She resided in Hudson, NH since 1966.

Lorraine graduated from Boston Clerical School of Business, and during that time met her future husband-to-be. She married Robert J. DeMinico, on September 16th, 1961 and they had three children, Robert Jr., Gregory, and Mark. Their 60 plus years of marriage were filled with love and blessed memories and was celebrated with family and friends in September of 2021.

After 40 plus years of both listing and selling properties, along with being a Manager, Lorraine retired from Coldwell Banker as an Associate Broker. She was a first-rate Manager and coach for her associates, and was extremely generous in sharing her vast knowledge and experience in Real Estate to her colleagues and the greater Real Estate community.

Lorraine loved to spend time with her grandchildren, reading books, and spending her summers at their Lake Winnepesaukee residence. She was a wonderful woman, always thinking about others and never complaining about anything. She is loved by her family and friends for always putting them first before herself.

Lorraine is survived by her sons Robert Jr. and wife Cheryl DeMinico, Gregory and wife Karen DeMinico, Mark DeMinico, and grandchildren Michael, Mitchell and Jacob DeMinico, her brother-in-law Francis and wife Linda DeMinico, and their children Taylor and Arriana, and sister-in-law Maria Foley, brother Joe and Ellie Foley and their children Ashley and Ryan, and brother Stephen and Maureen Foley and their children Patrick and Ella.

Visiting hours were held Thursday, Dec. 21 in the Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers the family encouraged donations be made in Lorraine's loving memory to the Alzheimer's Association at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) or to the charity of one's choice. To share an online message of condolence please visit [www.dumontsullivan.com](http://www.dumontsullivan.com).



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**UNTO US** The music program at Presentation of Mary Academy in Hudson presented its annual Christmas show on Friday, December 15 at the Thompson Center for the Performing Arts, located on the PMA campus. The program, titled "Unto Us", was a musical rendition of the birth of Jesus Christ, and featured many of the school's students. Performances included instrumental arrangements, dances, solos, and choral renditions. Several students also played Biblical roles, dramatizing the events surrounding the birth of Christ. *Courtesy photos*

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# Alvirne Students Assist in HPD Reconstruction Project

CHRIS PAUL  
HUDSON TIMES

in the town's efforts.

Senior Aidan Malloy and junior Brady Monk are both part of the Alvirne CTE (Career and Technical Education) Center and gained some invaluable experience with their involvement with the project.

Aidan Malloy is in the final stages of his studies of Construction Management at the Wilbur H. Palmer CTE Center and over the past semester, he has been interning with Northpoint Construction and the Hudson police as a Construction

Manager.

Brady Monk, a junior in the Engineering program, helped with the project by converting the Hudson Police Department logo into a vector file that can be used in producing a large Terrazzo flooring pattern in the new main entrance.

Both young men have put in countless hours on the project and have even helped to save the town money.

The reconstruction of the station began back in April of 2023 and will continue until April of 2024 and there should be a ribbon cutting ceremony sometime in January.

As a Construction Management intern, Malloy has been involved in weekly meetings headed up by Jillian Shedd, the NorthPoint Construction Manager, and helps out when he's not attending classes at Nashua Community College or Alvirne.

Brady Monk was recently presented with a medalion by the Police Department in appreciation for his help with refining the logo and the vector/design layout for the flooring inlay that will be applied to the new foyer area.

Rich Paiva, the Career Development Coordinator at Alvirne, helped facilitate the student's involvement in the project.

Paiva was involved in working with Northpoint Construction to place Aidan



Aidan Malloy looks over planning schedule during a recent construction meeting at the police station.



Hudson Police Captains, Steven McElhinney, left, and David Cayot, look over the printout of the logo Brady Monk refined. Photos by Chris Paul

in his internship.

The School Resource Officer, John Mirabella, reached out to Colin Stone, the Engineering instructor, about the vector file for the department's floor. Officer Mirabella understands the program's philosophy, which is to connect students out in local industry and/or bring local industry into the classroom.

Paiva added, "One of the main mantras of my position in the district is connect students out into the real world and bring the real world into the classroom."

The CTE program has

had a number of other connections to local industry and the community. The Culinary Arts program has hosted luncheons and after hours with the Hudson Chamber of Commerce. The Veterinary Science program partners with the GFWC Hudson Women's Club to make their annual pet vaccination event happen each spring. The Welding and Fabrication program manufactured several dozen fire alarm call boxes last year in partnership with the Hudson Fire Department and Approved Sheet Metal in Hudson.

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# HUDSON SPORTS

## Admirals Outlast Grizzlies 1-0 in Penalty-Filled Matchup

BLAKE SANTANA  
HUDSON TIMES

This past Saturday, the Alvirne-Milford hockey squad took to the ice to play host to the Goffstown Grizzlies for their 2023-24 home opener.

The Admirals, led by some stellar goaltending by sophomore Kian Corcoran, they beat the Grizzlies for the first time in team history.

The Admirals, who had gone 0-8 against Goffstown since the Alvirne-Milford merge in the 2018-19 season in NHIAA play, clung to a 1-0 victory on Saturday night.

Both teams came out of the gates playing very physical hockey, with more hits being dished out in the first fifteen minutes of action than in the entire game against the Raiders of Lebanon-Stevens-Mascoma.

In a game in which the home-standing Admirals

took 11 penalties, ordinarily, it wouldn't be expected that the Maroon and Navy would come out on top, but that's exactly what happened. This was only made possible by what might have been the single-best penalty kill performance in NHIAA hockey history.

Coach Thibeault said the coaching staff was extremely proud of the resiliency and work ethic put out by the players, "That was the best game I've seen a defensive core play blocking shots and containing gap control," he said when asked about his team's play, "The overall back checking by the forwards and the hard forecheck set the tone for the game. Kian Corcoran getting his first career shutout against a very good Goffstown team was the icing on the cake," he

added.

Coach Tom has worked hard with the defense and it has shown immediate results. The forward group led by Coach Dave is playing unselfish hockey with some great passing. The team is buying in and realizing their potential. It will continue to take a total team effort to continue to be successful.

Coach Thibeault has always expected his players to stay humble, continue to work hard, and improve every single day.

The lone goal of the night came off the stick of Bryce Larco, on a great breakout play sprung by winger James Nemeth, he beat the Grizzlies netminder on the five-hole to put the Admirals in the lead, where they would never

look back.

Another major piece to the whole equation was sophomore goaltender, Kian Corcoran, who playing in just his second game of Division 2 action for the Admirals, got his first high school shutout, stopping all 42 shots he faced, raising his save percentage to .988, and lowering his GAA to 0.50, allowing just one goal in two games.

The three stars of the night easily have to be Kian Corcoran, the entirety of the Admirals PK, and Bryce Larco. Corcoran for his stellar shutout performance, the Admirals' penalty kill unit for their 11/11 performance when down a man on the ice, and Bryce Larco for his game-winning goal that turned out to be the lone marker in the game.



Brandon Ganas fires a slapshot at the Goffstown net on Saturday. Photo courtesy Luca DeRosa



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# Broncos Boys' Basketball Drop Two to Start Season



Sophomore forward, Garrett Hall, goes up for a rebound against Portsmouth. *Photos by Chris Paul*

**BLAKE SANTANA**  
HUDSON TIMES

In a season which the Broncos' boys' basketball team has high hopes, the first two games did not go according to plan, losing their first two games by scores of 62-58 and 90-72 at home against Portsmouth and at Pinkerton, respectively.

In their home opener, the Alvirne Broncos had several chances to win the game. Portsmouth gave them chances to run away with the first game of the season, but costly turnovers and fouls got Alvirne into more trouble than they could handle, costing them the game.

The usual suspects for Alvirne proved their metal, as the likes of Sammy Dewitt, Aiden Mills, and Garrett Hall were putting up points just as they

should. Unfortunately, for Portsmouth, Miles De Iongh, Princeton Daniel, Isaiah Reis, and Jackson Jones matched the Broncos and then some.

The first quarter was a back-and-forth frame for Portsmouth and Alvirne. Points being spread across the board, with the game leader at just 6 points, with both De Iongh and Ryan Swarz at 6 points apiece for the Clippers. That was enough for Portsmouth to hold a 16-15 lead through 1 quarter, though.

The second quarter was much of the same with the quarter's leading scorer being Portsmouth's Swarz, who had just four points. The Clippers were able to outscore Alvirne 15-14 in the second to bring the half-time score to 31-29 in a first half that had almost 20 fouls called between the two teams.

In the third, the Broncos **continued on page 12**



Senior guard, Aiden Mills, goes up for a lay-up against the Clippers in the season opener.

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# Alvirne Girls' Basketball Struggle in Opening Week

BLAKE SANTANA  
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne girls' varsity basketball team didn't get off to a great start, as the

Lady Broncos lost to the Clippers and Astros in their opening week of action. The AHS squad lost 75-38 to start the season at Ports-

mouth and then fell 59-32 at home against Pinkerton.

The girls got a rather unfortunate couple of pairings to open their season, drawing teams that finished third and fifth in the state last season.

In their opener, it was a rough blowout on the seacoast at the Clippers, as the Broncos couldn't get much going from tipoff in the game with the peak of the Broncos' struggles coming from the point where they were outscored 31-14 in the final 14 minutes of play.

At their home game, Alvirne looked much better to start. As scoring bounced back and forth, the Broncos got the first points, before the teams got two shooting fouls apiece, with 7 of 8 free throws being hit to make it 6-3 Broncos early on.

After a 4-4 run by Alvirne's Julia Adams and Pinkerton's Elizabeth Lavoie, the score stood at 10-7 in favor of the Broncos. The Astros would unfortunately score the final five points of the quarter to make it 12-10.

The Broncos, after

allowing the Astros to build a lead, tried to remedy the issue by shooting the three ball. Unfortunately, through the first half, they had not only fallen behind 25-15, but they were just 1 of 14 from behind the arc, which meant there were a lot of empty possessions for Alvirne and points left on the table. If Alvirne was to get back in this game, they would have to stop shooting threes.

After getting the first two points in a foul-filled third quarter, Alvirne allowed Pinkerton to go on a 14-9 run the rest of the third quarter, with most of the Broncos' points coming

continued on page 12



Sophomore forward, Julia Adams, hits a lay-up early against PA on Friday night. Photos by Chris Paul



Junior forward, Ella Hartson, goes to the basket against Sydney Gerossie in the home opener.



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# Boys Basketball

continued from page 10

came out firing, with their leaders seeming to have a fire lit under them in the halftime break. Alvirne went on an 11-0 run that spanned much of the third

quarter and gave them a nine-point lead with the Clippers baffled and seemingly gassed.

Unfortunately, an Alvirne shooting foul led to the Clippers cutting the lead

to eight. After Sammy Dewitt extended the Bronco lead to 10, Portsmouth would cut the lead down to just four before the end of the third frame with the Broncos looking like they were running out of gas at points.

The Clippers would cut the Broncos lead to just two points before calling a timeout with 6:01 left in regulation time. From just before that timeout to the 2:26 mark in the final frame, the Clippers led a 15-1 run to make the score 60-51 Clippers,

giving them their largest lead of the day.

Alvirne would go on a 7-0 run late to cut the lead to two again, but after Evan Bettencourt picked up an intentional foul, the Clippers would hit their two free throws, making the final

score 62-58 in favor of the visiting squad.

The Broncos then traveled to Pinkerton Academy in Derry on Friday and were blown out 90-70 by the home-standing Astros, dropping their record to 0-2 through the first week.

# Girls Basketball

continued from page 11

off free throw to push the score to 39-26 Astros through three quarters of play.

The first 5:40 of the final frame led to the Astros going on a 16-1 run with the only point they allowed being off a shooting foul on a free throw. The game was now out of hand as the Astros led 55-27, more than doubling the Broncos score.

Alvirne would outscore Pinkerton 5-4 the rest of the way, bringing the final score to 59-32. The major storyline of the night was

the Broncos shooting from three-point range.

They finished at just a 3/21 clip or just 14.28 percent. Had Alvirne hit on just half of the threes they missed, the game would have been destined for overtime had everything else gone the same.

If you're a fan of the Lady Broncos, you can only hope that Alvirne will either improve their shooting from three-point range, or that Alvirne will begin to take their two point shots and save the threes for when they're really needed.



## Hudson Kiwanis Club Donates Scholarships

The Kiwanis Club of Hudson recently donated \$500,000 to the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation to endow scholarships for Hudson and Litchfield students seeking continuing education.

"The Hudson Kiwanis club has awarded scholarships at both Alvirne and Campbell High Schools for many years," commented Kiwanis club president Jon Maltz. "This half million dollar donation helps ensure the scholarships will be around for a long time!"

The scholarship funds at the Foundation were created by generous donors who wanted to help New Hampshire students reach their full potential. Scholarships are awarded to students for certificates, licensing programs, apprenticeships, two- and four-year degree programs and graduate school.

The Foundation uses a single, online application

for all scholarship awards. Students are matched automatically with all scholarship opportunities for which they qualify. So a graduating senior may be eligible for more than just local scholarships, and could have more opportunity to win a scholarship.

Students are asked to contact the Alvirne or Campbell guidance offices for more information, or go directly to [www.nhcf.org](http://www.nhcf.org) to get more information about scholarships. To learn more about Kiwanis, visit [www.hudsonkiwanis.org](http://www.hudsonkiwanis.org).

The application will open for the 2024/2025 school year on January 15th

Pictured above are the 2022-23 Alvirne High School scholarship winners with principal Steven Beals and Kiwanis Club member Mike Hardy.

*Courtesy photo*

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# AROUND TOWN

**Around Town Policy:** This section is meant to be used to announce free events to the communities. 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. The deadline for a submission is each Monday at 5 p.m. Please send items to [HUDSONTIMES@NUTPUB.NET](mailto:HUDSONTIMES@NUTPUB.NET).

## Christmas Masses

Schedule For Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses at St. Kathryn Catholic Church located 4 Dracut Rd., Hudson, call 603-882-7793 for more information. On Sunday, Dec. 24: Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Christmas at 4 p.m.; Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Christmas at 6 p.m.; Christmas Mass During the Night at 10:30 p.m. (a prelude of Christmas Music will be sung prior to the Christmas Mass During the Night from 10 - 10:30 p.m.) On Monday, Dec. 25: Christmas Mass During the Day at 10:30 a.m. (a prelude of Christmas Music will be sung prior to the Christmas Mass During the Night from 10 - 10:30 a.m.)

## Annual Tree Burn

Londonderry Boys Scout Troop 521 will be conducting their annual community Christmas tree burn on Jan. 6 at Moose Hill Orchard behind the Farm Stand on Mammoth Rd. Residents may drop off trees starting at 8 a.m. and until the actual burn which is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. Donations for the troop will be accepted and refreshments will be available.

## Final Voter Registration

The Supervisors of the Checklist will meet on Friday, Jan. 12, from 2 - 3 p.m. in the lower level of the Town Hall. This will be the last opportunity to register to vote before the Presidential Primary and avoid lines at the polls.

If registering at the polls, please bring your proof of citizenship if you were NOT born in the USA or its territories. You also must have proof of residency. If the present address is not on your ID card or Drivers License then bring a piece of mail to prove residency. Voters without proper identity or papers will receive a provisional ballot and have to prove their identity before the ballot is cast

## Penguin Plunge

The Special Olympics of NH Penguin Plunge will take place on Feb. 10. The Alvirne team has already started to form and over the next two months will continue to grow. If you are interested in joining the team, apply online at <https://fundraising.sonh.org/>.

/Alvirne.../hs-penguin-plunge. Donations to the team or an individual plunger can also be made on the page.

## Lions Club Photo Contest

Which photo wraps up your feelings about Lions? Send your 8x10 matte finish photo to Robin Rodgers no later than Jan. 8, 2024. EMAIL: [robina.rodgers@gmail.com](mailto:robina.rodgers@gmail.com). The contest will be peer judged at the Multiple District Convention to be held Jan. 26 - 28 at the Westford Regency Hotel, Westford, Mass. Prizes will be awarded for the top vote takers and a calendar will be assembled with 12 entries. Entry into the contest gives permission to use your photo for future MD-44 calendar fundraiser.

## Mystery Lover's Book Club

On Monday, Jan. 22, from 1 - 2:30 p.m. in the Children's Programming Room of Rodgers Memorial Library. If you are looking for a book group where everyone joins in with the conversation and opinions are welcome, this is the place for you. Come and give it a try. This month's book pick is The Maid by

## Meeting Schedule: Town of Hudson and Hudson School District

Thursday Dec. 14: Trustees of the Trust Fund 3:30pm  
Thursday Dec. 14: Zoning Board 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 5: Deadline for a bond article,  
Tuesday Jan. 9: The deadline for Town Warrant

Check [HUDSONNH.GOV](http://HUDSONNH.GOV) and [SAU81.ORG](http://SAU81.ORG) for agendas and locations

Nita Prose.

p.m., in the Community Room.

## Drop In Stitchers

On Friday, Dec. 22, & 29, from 9:15 - 11:15 a.m., in the Community Room of Rodgers Memorial Library. If you're starting a new skill or brushing up on an old one or even if you just like to sit and chat while pretending to work, this is a judgment free zone. Bring in that pair of socks you started in 1986 - you can finish them here. Make a new craft and some new friends.

## Democrats Meeting

The Hudson Democrats will have a general meeting at the Rodgers Memorial Library on Thursday, Jan. 11 (No Dec. Meeting) from 7 - 8:45

## Dino the Therapy Dog

Come meet Dino, the therapy dog at Rodgers Memorial Library. Dino is a St. Bernard who loves to be pet on the Library Lawn. On Tuesdays, Dec. 26 from 2:30 - 3 p.m.

## Free PFOA Water Test

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**GENERAC**





# Selectmen Hear Proposed Personnel Policy Change

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

During the Dec. 11 Hudson Board of Selectmen meeting, Town Administrator, Steve Malizia, presented the Board of Selectmen with a policy proposal regarding longevity for employees. "I am requesting that the Board of Selectmen consider amending the Town's Personnel Policies by adding language to the Leave, Earned Time section of the policy," Malizia wrote in a memo to the Selectmen. He explained that now they have negotiated it into the fire union contract, he thought it made sense to move forward with the policy. "That was the last union contract that we negotiated an employee longevity policy," Malizia said.

"Now that we have negotiated the JAFF Union contract, all our bargaining unit contracts contain lan-

guage that awards employees a one-time award of five (5) non-lapsing personal days upon completion of twenty (20) years of service to the Town of Hudson. Similar to the language in the bargaining unit contracts, these days may not be sold back to the Town and will not be paid out when leaving employment," Malizia wrote in the memo. He noted that the language being proposed is the same language in all of the collective bargaining agreements in town.

One question raised was if the policy applies to the union if their contract isn't ratified by voters. Malizia noted that if it's not in the union contract then they wouldn't be eligible for it. The Board of Selectmen approved sending the proposed policy to a second reading.

In other personnel news,

several votes taken during a non-public session were announced including the hiring of Caiden Cox as a part time maintenance assistant in the police department, for 15 hours per week and \$15 an hour.

Another vote was to promote Lieutenant/AEMT, Martin Conlon, to Fire Captain/AEMT, which pays \$89,732 annually. The Selectmen also voted to promote Firefighter/AEMT, Dennis Haerinck, to Lieutenant/AEMT, which pays \$30.43 an hour.

Paul Bolduc was hired as a dispatcher in the fire department, which pays \$19.36 per hour.

It was also approved by the Selectmen to send the Hudson Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 3154 union contract to the warrant, along with the contract for the Public Works union.



## RINGING IN DONATIONS

Laurel St. George donates to the Salvation Army at Market Basket on Saturday afternoon while Hudson Lions Club member Rachel Gull looks on during her shift to help raise money for the organization.

Photo by Chris Paul

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