

THE Hudson Times

November 30, 2023 ♦ Volume 1 – Issue 5

A FREE Weekly Publication



SANTA STARE

Nine-month-old Harper Charette was mesmerized by Old St. Nick at the annual Hudson Lions Club's Santa Arrival holiday event. Families filled the Community Center for photos with the honored guest and children had activities available. More photos page 8. *Photo by Chris Paul*

Engineering & IT Departments Discuss the 2025 Budget Plans

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

At its November 15 meeting, the Budget Committee heard a presentation from IT Director, John Beike, and his team.

"My budget is licensing and maintenance contracts of all the software and hardware," said Beike.

Costs of the IT Department are fixed to those

contracts, with a handful of notable spending requests in the 2025 budget, including an expansion to cloud computing. Beike elaborated.

"The big one is body cameras; all that data gets uploaded [to the cloud]. There's a lot of data that's going through those body cameras, that's where we see the biggest hit."

Other priorities included staff training and cyber security. The IT Department also requested money for outside services or consulting fees for issues the town cannot fix in-house. A recent example was with SharePoint software, which cost \$15,000.

Town Engineer, Elvis Dhima, also gave a presen-

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Superintendent Lays Out Proposed Goals For 2024

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

Hudson Superintendent, Daniel Moulis, presented the School Board with proposed goals for 2024 during the Nov. 20 meeting. At the previous meeting, he presented several proposed goals to the School Board, however, they suggested he look at some changes, after they felt some of them could be done over the course of a couple of years.

One of the goals originally was to "Increase academic performance based upon summative assessments by 10%-15%," which includes increasing graduation rates from 83.7% to 90%. Board

members suggested that it may be too lofty of a goal for one year, so instead he is proposing that the graduation rate in 23/24 is 86.7% for a goal, and 90% the following year.

To improve math performance by 5-10% in 2023-2024, which would be "based upon state assessments, district assessments, and Advanced Placement test results" Moulis added. His hope is to see the same results for reading and writing.

Moulis plans to continue to have assessment reports to the School Board during the Fall, mid-year, and the Spring "to demonstrate academic progress

and goals for improvement."

A overarching goal is to "provide a new direction and vision for the district." Some of the evidence of accomplishing this goal includes during the budget process he "will provide a detailed vision for school and district needs focused on students' academic growth, social and emotional learning, curriculum improvement, and school facilities improvements." He said they also plan to reinstate the Strategic Planning Committee with new membership.

Moulis said he hopes to have listening sessions

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West Road Property Receives Approval for Industrial Use

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Zoning Board of Adjustment opened its November 16 meeting with a variance request from Nashua's Bosowski Properties, LLC. The variance would allow Bosowski to use three, 9,000-square-foot multi-tenant buildings on 19 West Road for industrial purposes in an area zoned for business. Attorney, Morgan Hollis, was at the meeting to speak for Bosowski.

"There will be three, small, industrial-type buildings. There's nobody interested in a business-type use on this site," said Hollis. "We might have research, manufacturing, electronics,

assembly, welding, machine shop, distribution, warehousing, self-storage, or contract yards, all of those have potential."

The request was somewhat unusual as Bosowski did not yet have confirmed tenants. Currently, the property stores truck trailers. According to Hollis, the West Road property is the "last undeveloped lot" in the area.

"Where are tractor-trailers going to load into these buildings?" asked Alternate Board member Tim Lanphear.

Hollis made it clear that only the basic design of the buildings has been planned, and details related to ship-

ping will come after getting interested tenants. The ZBA unanimously approved the variance.

Nashua lawyer, Elizabeth Hartigan, and Todd Boyer of The Boyer Family Revocable Trust of 2019 made a variance request for a proposed subdivision on 32 Ledge Road for what the application called a "conceptual house" on the property. The Ledge Road property failed to meet size requirements of 43,560 square feet per lot and did not yet have water or sewer connections. It is also surrounded by the Saint Patrick and Holy Cross Lithuanian Cemeteries.

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School Board Approve Repairs to Junior Varsity Dugout

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

One of the agenda items during the Nov. 20 School Board meeting was in regard to a request from Superintendent, Daniel Moulis, to be able to attend the annual Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development conference taking place in Washington D.C.

"I plan to make new connections to help expand my perspective and bring fresh thinking to help shape what is next for teaching and learning," Moulis told the School Board. "This is an opportunity for me to gain powerful new instructional, curriculum, and leadership approaches that I can bring back to the Hudson School District to help our team solve our most pressing challenges."

Moulis said the School Board can "be confident that the knowledge I gain

and the innovative ideas and insights that inspire me will, in turn, benefit our entire school district."

The anticipated cost is \$2,292, which was approved by the School Board.

Moulis said some of the specific areas in the program, which he identified as interests to him, include nurturing the social and emotional well-being for students; building cultural competence, and knowledge to create equitable and inclusive learning environments, along with "expanding my networks to help me address the tough issues that school districts are facing."

School Board member, Ethan Beals, said he was looking forward to getting briefed on what he learned at the conference.

"I'm excited to hear about this and I'm excited for you to go," he said.

Also during the meeting, the School Board approved a reimbursement request from Hills Garrison School Psychologist, Dr. Kacey Broadhurst, to attend a conference.

"In accordance with Policy Code: DKC Expense Reimbursements, I am seeking approval from the Hudson School Board to attend the National Association of School Psychology's (NASP) Annual Convention, February 14-17, 2024, in New Orleans, LA," she wrote in a memo.

Broadhurst said she knows she would be responsible for all travel and lodging expenses.

"As a School Psychologist, NASP's annual convention provides an abundance of professional development opportunities through educational sessions, workshops, and networking," she wrote.

"Additionally, NASP provides opportunities to learn about the latest and most effective products, services, training, and best practices to enhance my skills."

The School Board approved the reimbursement request.

The School Board also approved awarding a contract to Solid Roots Construction, LLC. for the

Alvirne High School JV dugout replacement. The contract was awarded for \$27,916.28.

"This bid includes the installation of two fully furnished dugout structures to be bracketed to the ground with concrete filled sono-tubes," a memo to the School Board read. "After meeting with John Pratte, Facilities Director, we rec-

ommend the School Board award this bid to Solid Roots Construction, LLC in the amount of \$27,916.28. This project is the result of windstorm damage over last winter and has been processed as an insurance claim."

The next Hudson School Board meeting is slated to take place on Dec. 4.

School Goals

Continued from page 1
to gain public feedback from the community, families, staff, and students.

"Create systems to continue to improve district communication with families, community, teachers and staff, and students." Moulis has set as an additional goal. Some of the ways he plans to do this is by reviewing the

district website and making recommendations for improvement.

He also has plans to see increased transparency with school district committees, agendas, meetings and notes available for the public, along with continuing to share good news through social media, among other things.

The final goal he pro-

posed was to continue "attendance and participation at professional conferences, workshops, seminars, and meetings with colleagues."

Moulis said he hopes to participate in the South Central meetings with superintendents and to attend a national conference "focused on curriculum, instruction, academic improvement and leadership growth."

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Benson Park Committee Review Funds and Clean-Up Day

PAUL CONYERS
HUDSON TIMES

The Benson Park Committee met on November 16 to examine balance and expenditures.

"Our general fund balance is \$307.44, our available balance for Benson Park Committee printing and sign preparation is at \$500, and office supplies is

untouched at \$100," said Benson Park Chairman, Jack Madden. He added that the balance had not changed much over the past few months, despite two missed reports.

Madden also met with the town IT and finance directors to discuss the fundraising donation section on their webpage.

"We've wanted to have a simple donation button with \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20 amounts, and the site isn't set up to do that, I don't think that's terribly onerous to do," said Madden.

The Chair also discussed issues like rejected bank fees from unsuccessful donations. The Benson Park Committee will call donors with failed transactions and ask them to pay bank fees so the donation fund will not need to absorb the cost.

Madden detailed his plan to include a warrant article budget request to the Board of Selectmen for the public vote in March.

"We should provide a vote for another \$10,000 transfer into the fund for our capital reserve," he explained. The Chair described it as a standard request. A similar warrant article was approved last year.

The Committee had an update on finding suitable locations for new park benches. Vice-Chair, Judy Brouillette, walked around to find "additional spots" for placement. Local donations helped pay for the benches, and installation is expected in the near future.

"I don't know what the timetable is, but I know it's definitely moving forward very quickly," said Brouillette.

"It is progressing, and they have a bunch of spots ready."

A volunteer from the Hudson Memorial VFW post offered to make up to 20 Adopt-a-Sign signs for free. There was increased interest in the program over the summer, with at least eight new adoptions.

"Signs will be made up of pine with names engraved," said Madden. "We're looking at maybe mid-December for the first sign."

Member, Scott Ander-

son, praised the Friends of Benson Park's recent clean-up day, calling it "one of the biggest well-attended I've seen." He thanked everyone who "came out that day to put the effort in to help the park and make it look better."

It was the last clean-up day of the year. Improvements included mulching, work on the dog park, and cleaning Adopt-a-Spot locations.

"We would like the event to continue to get bigger every month if we can,"

remarked Brouillette. "Sometimes people get out of the habit, but please, there are always things that can be done. Anyone with a need or want to help, even during the off-season, should touch base with any of the Committee members, and we can find out if there's something that can be worked on."

The Benson Park Committee is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, December 21, at 7 p.m. at the Hudson Cable Access Center.

OBITUARY

Dean R. Kolden



Dean R. Kolden, 85, of Hudson, NH passed away peacefully and comfortably on Nov. 18, 2023 surrounded by his family.

Dean, originally from Richfield, MN captained his high school hockey team. He went onto graduating from Mankato State University majoring in Biology. After serving in the Army National Guard, he embarked on

a 25 year career with Quaker Oats retiring as a District Manager of the Northeast. Being the ultimate salesman and not being able to sit still, he started his second 15 year career with Swedish Match/ General Cigar only retiring from there after a second stroke.

His real passion was his family. He loved spending time with his wife Mary at his second home in North Conway. There are so many memories that will ever be cherished of times spent there. He would tell you that his joy in life was to watch his grandchildren play hockey, lacrosse, basketball, soccer and baseball. He would not miss a game and could always be counted on to bring them to practice at all hours of the day and night.

Dean is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mary, and three children: Troy and his wife Diane of Hudson, NH, Erik and his wife Andrea of Hudson, NH, and Anne Coletti of Largo, FL. He was also so proud of his grandchildren, Cory, Austin, Shayna, Kaelyn, Eireann, Gehrig and Larsen, and great grandchildren Tyler, Mason, Olivia and Brady. He spent special times at Lake Amelia in Villard, MN with his brother-in-law Mike McHugh and his wife Tammy, sister-in-law Kathy, nieces Kelly, Lindsey and his nephew Tom.

Dean's family held a celebration of his life on Friday, Nov. 24 at Troy and Diane's home in Hudson.

In lieu of flowers, they family asks to please consider making a donation in Dean's loving memory to Brookhaven Hospice of NH at www.brookhavenhospice.com

Hudson Property Tax Rate Increases by \$1 to 15.68

CHRIS PAUL
HUDSON TIMES

The town of Hudson's Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office released this year's property tax rate on Monday, Nov 27.

The Town of Hudson's property tax rate for 2023 has been set by the New Hampshire Department of

Revenue Administration (DRA) at \$15.68 per thousand of valuation.

This rate is roughly one dollar higher than the 2022 tax rate of \$14.69.

The breakdown is:

Municipal (Town)	\$4.71
County	\$0.89
Local Education	\$8.79
State Education	\$1.29

Total \$15.68
With a rate of \$15.68 the annual tax on a property valued at \$500,000 would be \$7,740.

According to the Town Clerk/Tax Collector, the Property Tax bills will be mailed on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023 with a due date of January 5, 2024.

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Editorial

Shop Locally and Be Proud

The holidays have snuck up on us yet again. Hanukkah arrives on December 8th, and Christmas is not far behind. While some of our readers had their holiday shopping done before the turkey hit their family dining rooms last month, there are still many left wondering where to do their holiday shopping?

Staying with the movement of eating food grown locally, we'd like to suggest you consider doing all your holiday shopping close to home and, no, we don't mean online.

Local shops may not have the flashy, "low, low" prices of big box stores, but they're likely to have the answer you need if a question arises. Plus, you won't have to do a lot of driving to get there.

Supporting your local retailers is a gift that keeps on giving. By doing so, you're helping a local business stay open, as well as helping the town's tax base. With the local paper, we depend on business to advertise to get their message out it and in turn that is how we get the information out to you every week. Without these advertisements, you have no true local paper.

Shopping locally also helps to support local artists, crafters, farmers and independent businesses whose work is available for purchase, and can make for unique and thoughtful gifts. There's a certain pleasure that comes from buying something with a label certifying that it was made in your hometown. Just about everyone loves getting those gifts from the heart, made especially for

them from those they love.

Just as the economy has us reevaluating how we heat our homes and fuel our cars, it prompts us to look at where we spend our hard-earned money, especially when it comes to gift giving. Local businesses, like us, give back to the community in many ways and help keep our town strong.

If you're planning on dining out for a special holiday meal, consider a local restaurant or getting a platter to go and bring it home. Chances are you'd be sure to miss your unique culinary get-aways if they had closed, so help them remain open by celebrating the mom and pop restaurants as opposed to more of the same big chain restaurants. This makes for warm, special memories and a healthy local economy.

By spending your money locally, you may find yourself in a heartfelt conversation about your holiday plans and favorite seasonal recipes, as opposed to the more commercialized alternative where you are more apt to merely be bombarded with incessant sales pitches and half-hearted, corporate-mandated, "Happy Holidays". A genuine verbal exchange is an added treat to consider, especially around the holiday season.

This holiday season, Nutfield Publishing urges you to consider your local artists, bakers, and shop owners to take care of your loved ones. The support you will be providing your community will be the greatest gift you could give yourself.

Where and When to Find a Copy of the Hudson Times

This week, Issue 5 of the Hudson Times is in your hands, and it has taken a group of volunteers time to deliver it around town for your ease of access.

As we get familiar with your newspaper habits we will continue to try and refill those places that empty quickly and move papers from one location to another to ensure all 2000 papers get into the hands of our citizens.

Currently there are nine boxes placed in various spots around town. These boxes are accessible 24 hours a day.

The boxes are currently located at Hudson Lumber (right next to the library

book drop box), Nottingham Plaza near the butcher and Pizza place (this was originally near FITLab).

As we move through town we go next to Suzi's Diner, The Good Place and Cookies Diner (all great places to grab a bite to eat). The VFW Bingo Hall has a box next to the flag Drop-box, this box may wander to a new location soon, as we hope to put the papers inside.

The Community Center and Senior Center, right by the door, this is a good place for everyone who frequents the dog park at Benson's Park or any other part of the park to get your paper.

Many businesses around

town have allowed us to deliver papers for pick up in their establishments.

Please ask the business you frequent if they have a paper and encourage them to advertise so we can continue to keep the Hudson Times free, weekly, and full of information.

Just to cover North, South and one more middle of town locations you may be wondering about Hanaford inside near register 7 on the newspaper stand, Ayotte's by the front door, Northside Grill, and many more locations. If you have a suggestion or really appreciate the paper please send us an email and let us know what you think.

Budgets

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tation on spending proposals for the Engineering Department.

"Basically, what the Engineering Department does is anything that has to deal with compliance: water, sewer, drainage, roads, traffic, private developments, grants, any programs related things of that sort," said Dhima.

He focused on several revenue-generating projects, including a 25-year lease for a Verizon town on town land for just under \$1 million and a solar panel project at the landfill to generate \$8.4 million over 40 years.

"These are going to be beneficial to the town for getting money at hand," said Dhima. "We're looking at about an average of \$250,000 per year for the next 25 years."

He predicted the solar project would be online by 2026. The leases will require voter approval.

There was also a \$20,000 funding request to hire grant consultants and writers as needed. The request is expected to cover two grants throughout the year.

"Are there any grant writers in the town? Have there ever been any grants writers in the town?" asked Committee Vice Chair, Bill Cole.

Dhima confirmed Hudson has no dedicated staff for grant writing, although it is sometimes done in-house depending on circumstances. It was not clear whether or not there has been a full-time grant writer in Hudson, although there have been part-time writers in the past. Cole questioned the need for a grant writer while the Town Engineer called third-party consultants "the most effective way" to pursue state and federal grants.

The Town Engineer also oversees the Hudson sewer fund for ratepayers connected to the public

system.

"The rates are remaining the same and have been the same for the past twenty-something years," said Dhima. "I am pleased to tell you that there's no increase, no change to the sewer rates."

He also described the system as being in "great shape" and that the main goal for the upcoming year was to get new monitoring equipment to make system inspections easier.

"When you say that the rates haven't changed for years, but the costs have gone up, how does that work?" asked Committee member, Kevin Walsh.

Dhima explained that the system has more users paying into the system along with incremental updates to improve efficiency.

The Hudson Budget Committee has its next regular meeting on Wednesday, November 29, in the Buxton Room of Town Hall.

THE Hudson Times

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Tradition Continues

The annual tradition of inviting residents to the Hudson Town Common for the annual tree lighting continued on Friday afternoon, Nov. 24. Santa Claus rolled in on a fire engine and flipped the switch to officially ring in the Hudson holiday season. *Photos by Chris Paul*

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Hudson Recreation Sponsor Annual Santa Ride Through Town

Santa Claus will be coming to town on Sunday, Dec. 10, with his annual Sleigh Ride throughout a number of neighborhoods in Hudson.

This annual holiday event is sponsored by the Hudson Recreation Department and is scheduled to have Santa begin his route through the community starting at noon from the parking lot at Ayottes in the south part of town.

Santa's Sleigh Ride will be traveling down about 80-

streets this year, but if he is not scheduled to sled down your street or a street nearby, he will be going through the Community Center, Nottingham West, and the Alvirne High School parking lots for residents to gather. He will also be headed down Burns Hill Road past Hudson's old Fire Department.

The complete route can be found on the Hudson Recreation Department's Facebook page, where residents can also track old St.

Nic's whereabouts that day on the same page.

Any questions on the ride can be answered by emailing the Recreation Director, Chrissy Peterson, a t cpeterson@hudsonnh.gov.

According to the flyer released by the Recreation Department, Santa will be starting his route on River Road, from there to Philbrick and onto Blueberry Lane then to Dracut Road, Wason Road, Burns Hill, St. Francis Place, St.

Anthony Drive, and back to Burns Hill.

From there he'll head to Glen Drive, Easthill Drive, Pelham Road, the Nottingham West parking lot, back to Pelham Road, Lowell Road, and into Fox Hollow.

Following that area, he'll head to Birch Street, Spruce Street, Cottonwood Drive, Butternut Street, Sycamore Street, Fir Lane, Cedar, Birch Drive, and Winnhaven.

From Winnhaven, the sleigh heads to County

Road, A Street, Belknap Road, Melendy, and into Overlook Circle.

Other roads included in the trip route (in order) include: Central Street; Adelaide; Lions Avenue (around the Community Center); Ferry; George; Highland; Haverhill Street; Derry Road; Cummings Street; Webster Street; Sunland; Patricia Drive; St. Laurent; Webster Street; Shoreline Road; Scenic Lane; Marsh Road, Robin Drive; Falcon Drive;

Towhee; Cardinal; Marsh; to Alvirne parking lot; Derry Road; Old Derry Road; Melba Drive; Gabrielle Drive; Greeley Street; onto Sousa Boulevard; Sutherland Drive; Greeley Street; Washington; Madison Drive; Windham Road; Barrett's Hill; Lois Drive, Rangers, Barrett's Hill; Greeley Street; Kimball Hill Road; Teagan Way; Shepherds Hill; Shadowbrook Drive; Bush Hill Road; and Flying Rock.

School Board Briefed on Nearly 85 Percent Graduation Rate

ALEX MALM
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board received an update regarding the graduation rates for the 2022 school year, during the Nov. 20 meeting. Guidance Director, William Huguen, told the School Board that the data from the state is that they had 84.73 percent graduation rate for the year, versus the state average, which had a graduation rate of 96.4 percent for the same year. The 2022 graduation

rate was up from 2021, which had a graduation rate of 83.27%, however, the percentages are still down from pre covid-19 pandemic, which saw a graduation rate of 87.7 percent in 2019 for example.

During the 2022 year, 3.8 percent of students dropped out from high school, slightly higher than the state average of 3.4 percent. A total of 6.1 percent of students in the 2022 graduating class took the HISet exam, which is the

state's version of the GED test.

The School Board was also presented with data about what students' plans were when they graduated from high school. Huguen said in 2022, 47 percent of students said they would be going to a four-year college after high school, while 13 percent said they were planning on attending a two-year college after high school. Meanwhile, 3 percent of students in the class of 2022 said they would be

entering the military after high school, four percent of students said they would be going to training school, and 33 percent of students said they were planning on going right to work after high school. It was explained by Huguen that unlike some data, the data related to students' plans is something they collect from students during their senior year directly and then report it to the state.

The numbers for those going to a four-year college

after high school was down in 2022 compared to 2021, when 52 percent of students said they'd be attending four-year colleges, 21 percent said they would be attending two-year colleges, six percent said they would be enlisting in the military, three percent were going to training school, and 18 percent were going to work after high school. Huguen added that he thinks the numbers will be higher for 2023, saying they have had several students either

applying or showing interest in four-year colleges.

He also noted that while he is disappointed to see a drop in the number of students going straight to four-year colleges, he is proud that students and families are making decisions that make the most sense to them financially, including enrolling in two-year colleges to begin their higher education journey.

"It's not where you start, it's where you finish," Huguen said.



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No One Injured During Hummingbird Lane House Fire

On Sunday, Nov. 26, members of the Hudson Fire Department and automatic aid departments were dispatched for a structure fire at 12 Hummingbird Lane according to a press release issued by Hudson Fire.

At 9:56 a.m., Hudson Fire Alarm received a direct call for a reported structure fire, followed by numerous other phone calls.

At the time of the initial calls, Hudson Fire was already handling two other medical emergencies.

This left Captain Blinn and Hudson Engine 1 to respond along with an immediate request by Cap-

tain Blinn for the working fire bringing mutual aid.

According to the report, "A neighbor was the first person to discover the fire and thanks to his quick actions, he alerted the residents to evacuate their home."

Upon Captain Blinn's arrival, he found a large 2.5 story wood frame structure with heavy fire and smoke coming from the rear of the building. Captain Blinn immediately requested a second alarm bringing more mutual aid to the scene. After confirming all people were out of the building, an aggressive fire attack was

initiated by the 3 members of Hudson Engine 1.

They were able to contain the fire until mutual aid arrived and assisted in the firefighting efforts.

After extensive fire suppression and overhaul, an investigation determine the cause of the fire to have started in the area of an exterior hot tub.

It was noted during the investigation that the fire was just pushing into the main structure, and if the initial engine had arrived any later, the outcome would have been more devastating.

Along with our mutual

aid partners, the firefighters handling the two previous medical emergencies responded to the scene after clearing the hospital.

There were approximately 30 Emergency Responders at the scene of the fire.

Companies on scene where: Captain Blinn; Hudson C1, C2, C3, Engine 1, Engine 4, Ladder 2, Amb. 4; Londonderry Engine, Londonderry Battalion Chief, Nashua Engine; Nashua C4, C2; Windham Engine; Derry Fire, Pelham Engine; Londonderry Medic; Off duty Hudson Fire members; Manchester Ladder; Nashua Engine; Salem Engine; and a Dracut Engine.



West Road

Continued from page 1

"All the lots in the area are already around the same size as we are proposing," said Hartigan. "Because we're proposing to bring the water and sewer sown, we'll be complying with all the requirements. Allowing smaller lots would not affect the character of this neighborhood."

There was concern over the distance the lot had to the surrounding cemeteries.

"With the cemetery, you have to have a 25-foot buffer. Within that buffer, you're not allowed to do anything, you can't excavate," said Town Liaison, Chris Sullivan. "One corner of the house is really close to that, if they're going to excavate a foundation, it's going to possibly breach the 25-foot setback."

Boyer offered two plans to keep the property away from the buffer during future construction.

"One, we could put [the

foundation] on a slab. Two, you can drive steel pilings in the ground, so you cannot make it past the 25-foot mark," Boyer explained. "Our plan is more or less a conceptual design that house fit there, it doesn't mean we're going to put the foundation up against the 25-foot setback, but it can fit there."

He promised to abide by all requirements and conditions.

After some debate, and

an abutter presenting a petition against granting the variance signed by 13 residents, the ZBA voted four-to-one in favor of granting the variance, with the stipulation Boyer keep the lot lines away from the cemetery.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment will have its last meeting of 2023 on Thursday, December 14, at 7 p.m. in the Buxton Community Development Conference Room.

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Annual Feast Gathers 50 Sisters Presentation of Mary



On Tuesday, Nov. 21, over 50 Sisters of the Presentation gathered at Presentation of Mary (PMA), in Hudson, to honor their founders, Marie Rivier, and to celebrate their special

feast day.

The Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is celebrated annually on November 21, and commemorates the presentation of the Blessed Virgin

as a child by her parents in the Temple in Jerusalem. Before Mary's birth, her parents received a heavenly message that they would bear a child. In thanksgiving for the God's gift of

Mary's birth, they brought her to the Temple to consecrate their only daughter to The Lord. On the Feast day, Catholics celebrate this event.

Sister Maria Rosa, Prin-

cipal, hosted a luncheon and the sisters attended a prayer service organized by Sister Maria and Music and Choir director Letty Gonzalez.

Sister Marie Rivier (now, Saint Marie Rivier)

chose this date to establish the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary (PMA) order, because of her love for the Blessed Mother.

Photos by Laura Parotta, Portrait Arts Photography



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HUDSON SPORTS

Admirals Hockey Set Sail with High Expectations in 2023

BLAKE SANTANA
HUDSON TIMES

The Alvirne-Milford Admirals will kick off their season on December 2 with a preseason matchup against Nashoba Valley Technical and the Vikings. The Admirals are coming off a season in which they finished 7-10, missed the playoffs by just two games, and finished 8th in NHIAA's Division II.

While the Admirals lost several key pieces last season in Matty Ryan, Sal Pace, Hayden Ricard, and Brennan Levesque, as well as the likes of alternate captain Chris Bedard, center Maddy Debelis, and defensemen Kelci Waters, who unfortunately missed the entirety of last season with a hip injury, expectations remain high for the Alvirne-Milford Co-Op. After all, they were able to retain netminder, Trent Scarbro, after some rumors

that he would transfer over the Summer.

All in all, the Navy and Maroon will return 14 skaters and 2 goalies, with the aforementioned seven players graduating, as well as losing D Colton Laroe, who transferred to Trinity High School, G James Brew who left for Merrimack, and F Sam Fortin, who opted not to play in his senior year.

Returning 16 players in total is far from a bad thing. The issue, however, is that the three big names that graduated in 2023—Hayden Ricard, Matty Ryan, and Sal Pace—combined to score all, but a handful of goals for the Admirals. Big shoes to fill for sure for Caddy Beaulieu, Bryce Larco, and James Nemeth. That trio combined for just six goals last season. Alvirne-Milford will need more from those three.

Luckily, last year's third

line, this year's second, is staying mostly intact, with Braydon Atwood remaining on the left wing, Brandon Callahan moving to center, and BG transfer Brandon Ganas on the right wing. Hopefully, this line will account for more than the measly two goals they had last season, both coming off the stick of Atwood.

On the third line, the wingers are both returning in Ryan Ricard and Cory Tomkins. This line also sees freshman Dylan MacLoud join them in the middle. Ricard is moving from being a defenseman to a winger and will play on the opposite side of his older brother who graduated with the second most goals in Alvirne history.

On the fourth line, it'll be three players who didn't get much ice time last season and will be hoping to contribute in Eddie Marchese, Gavin Darrigo, and



Alvirne-Milford Admirals will play their first home game on Saturday, Dec. 16 against the Goffstown Grizzlies.
Photo by Blake Santana

Chris Bozza.

On defense, four of the five defensemen will be returning from last season with Landon Briand, Cade Bouchard, Mason Tomkins, and Luc Pelletier back for the Admirals.

Additionally, possibly the pieces that could carry Alvirne-Milford to glory this season, Trent Scarbro and Kian Corcoran will be back between the pipes. Trent has been stellar in net for the past three seasons, and Corcoran has shown flashes at times when given the opportunity last season.

This year, Alvirne-Mil-

ford is only bringing in four players, three on the front end and one on the blue line. Up front, two of the new players to the team are expected to make an immediate impact: Brandon Ganas and Dylan MacLoud. While Mason Komarek may make an impact at some point, all projections seem to have him potentially playing a much smaller role than MacLoud and Ganas will.

On the blue line, it'll just be Nathan Ricci joining the team. Ricci will likely serve as an extra defenseman to complement

Bouchard, Briand, Mason Tomkins, and Luc Pelletier. While not expected to make a major impact this season, it will be crucial experience this season that Ricci will be gaining for the Admirals. It's always good to have a few freshmen coming in and getting Varsity experience.

Ultimately, the Admirals and their expected level of success could fall all over the place. Depending on how they play this season, there could be a realistic floor of possibly 4-14 or 5-13, but also a ceiling of the

continued on page 11

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Bronco Boys' Basketball Looking to Rebound This Season

BLAKE SANTANA
HUDSON TIMES

A first-round exit from the playoffs is not how you want your season to end, but it's far from the worst things could have been last season for Alvirne's Boys' Basketball team. After starting last season with a 1-7 record, the team finished the year at 7-11 in NHIAA action to earn the 12th seed in the Division 1 playoffs. They were then quickly handed a 50-34 loss at the hands of the Bishop Guertin Cardinals in the preliminary round.

This year seems to be off to a good start for the Broncos, as they have managed to earn championships in four Massachusetts-based offseason leagues: Methuen and Waltham in the Summer and Westford, as well as winning the 10th Annual Ed Scollan Preseason Tap-Off Tournament

this Fall.

The Broncos will embark on a grueling 18-game slate this season that begins on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, with a home game against the Portsmouth Clippers. This season, the team will look to finish with a positive record for the first time since 2021.

Several players look to be key factors in the success of the Broncos including junior Sam Dewitt and sophomore Garrett Hall who earned nods to the Nashua Telegraph's All-State Teams as a first team and honorable mention, respectively. Dewitt even earned NHIAA honors last season, as the then-sophomore earned an All-State Honorable Mention.

Some other key pieces for the Broncos will be seniors Andrew Harmen and Aiden Mills who are both

coming off strong seasons in 2022-23 and hope to build on that. Additionally, players like Evan Betten-court and Sean Chipfunde will be looking to contribute to another playoff run.

Diving into their schedule, there aren't any major homestands or stretches of away games as of yet, although the weather in New England is known to postpone many a high school sporting event in the fall, and not even the likes of basketball or hockey are safe. At the moment, though, the longest stretch either at home or on the road is a brief two games for the Broncos. One can only hope the weather won't be cruel enough to push back games and force an elongated road stretch.

As far as a record prediction goes, it would ultimately be nice to see the



Alvirne guard Sam DeWitt breaks to the hoop last season.

team finish with a record of 9-9 or better, good for a .500 regular season winning percentage; however, it seems, based on its off-season performances in those Massachusetts leagues that this Broncos

team has what it takes to do a bit more than just nine wins-after all, they did win seven games last season. For right now, we'll set their record prediction at a cool 12-6, which should be good for somewhere between a sixth and an eighth seed. That would also entail a home playoff game for Alvirne for the first time since 2018 when they also went 12-6 and earned the seventh seed, as well as a home game

against Merrimack, which they would win 50-39 before bowing out to Exeter in the second round.

For Alvirne to manage to do this, though, it will take a lot of the key pieces clicking the whole way, the team will have to be firing on all cylinders from day one, and the team will have to capture a form not-seen since that 2017-18 season. Can the Broncos find a way to pull it off? Only time will tell.

Hockey

inverse at 13-5 or 14-4. It will all depend on a few factors. Who plays up to their potential? Do any players exceed expectations? Are the Admirals able to replace the potent scoring of Pace-Ryan-Ricard? Can the defensive group keep the puck out of high-danger spots on the ice? And perhaps the most important question: can the duo of Trent Scarbro and Kian Corcoran play to their

potential and carry this team to its first playoff berth since 2021, and first time earning a playoff spot since 2018-19?

At the end of the day, is it possible for the Admirals to make the playoffs? It is. The biggest plus is that Division II has added the Lebanon-Stevens-Mascoma Raiders to the mix, making the number of teams jump from 11 to 12, and meaning that 8 teams will make the playoffs.

That means the Admirals just have to best four

teams to earn a ticket to the dance. Not anything impossible, but obviously, the goal is to be as high of a seed as possible and possibly get a home playoff

game. Once they get there, this team has what it takes to not only be competitive but potentially break some brackets and win a game or two.



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Alvirne Girls' Basketball Look to Take a Step Forward in 2024



Ella Hartson, left, put up 5.1 points per game last season for AHS. Photo by Chris Paul

BLAKE SANTANA
HUDSON TIMES

Bronco girls' basketball squad is hoping to turn things around from last season's finish and get into black figures this year.

Coming off an 8-10 finish last season, Alvirne's girls' basketball team is trying to potentially have just a couple more positive results and earn a winning record and a home playoff game this season.

The Lady Broncos are going to need some players to step up their game from a year ago, as four of the team's top five scoring players graduated in June of this past year—those players being Allyssa Scharn (9.6 PPG), Paige McKinnley (8.5 PPG), Jaime O'Connor (7.7 PPG), and Lyla Davis (3.8 PPG). The only one remaining of the top five scorers last season is Ella Hartson, who put up 5.1 points per game in 14 games.

Also returning for Alvirne will be Lexi Floyd,

Sadie Rogers, Rachel Allard, Taryn Macklin, Julia Adams, Haylie Christman, and Dani Wimmer, all of whom will play a big role in getting this team back to the promised land of the playoffs. It seems, though, that the girls will have to rely heavily on their defense to play a major role this season, as all four players to graduate were near the top of the roster in scoring.

The girls will play in the Nashua Preseason Jam-boree starting on Dec. 2, where we will get a better view of where the team truly stands for this upcoming year as far as players taking steps forward and who will make major impacts for newcomers to the Varsity roster, before traveling to Portsmouth High School on December 12 to play the Clippers.

The home opener for the ladies will be on Friday night, Dec. 15, starting at 6:30 p.m. against the Pinkerton Astros, which will be a good early test for

the Broncos and will serve as a measuring stick type of game.

Like the boys' team, Alvirne's Lady Broncos will have no road trips longer than two games over the course of their 18-game regular season, but they will have the benefit of a slightly longer homestand than the longest one the boys have at three games where between the 11th and 23rd of January, they will host Manchester Memorial, Trinity, and Londonderry, all from the friendly confines of the Barn. Perhaps that home-court advantage will help the team get some key victories over three opponents who appear to be very tough games going into the season. Granted, a lot can happen between now and mid-January, and we can only hope that what does happen between now and then works in the favor of Alvirne.

Alvirne does have the luxury of not having defending champions, and arguably the school's biggest rival as a whole in the Bishop Guertin Cardi-

nals on their schedule aside from a scrimmage at Rivier College just before the season opener. That game will take place on Dec. 7.

The girls will play 6 of the teams who made it to the elite 8 last season, with only Bishop Guertin and Concord being left off the schedule. This includes the final two games of the year at home against 2023's runner-up Bedford Bulldogs on February 20th and then a trip to Goffstown to play last year's fourth-place finishers in the Grizzlies on February 23rd to wrap up their regular season.

If the Broncos can sneak out a couple of wins against those top teams, it's genuinely plausible that this team can finish over .500 in the regular season and secure possibly a top 8 seed and host a playoff game. If things don't go their way, however, it could be another year of barely sneaking into the tournament and then banking on a major upset to make their way into the second round of the tournament.

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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.

Toys Collection

There is a collection box for CHaD (Children's Hospital at Dartmouth) in the main lobby of the Hudson police station, and will be participating with the Salvation Army bell ringing and collecting toys at Walmart in Hudson on Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

Community Food Pantry

On Dec. 9 visit the Hudson Community Food Pantry at 23 Library Street on from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bring non-perishable foods, unwrapped toys, and money! Help the Hudson-Litchfield - Rotary Club by donating to the Food Pantry. Your generosity can create a feast of hope for those in need. Let's turn hunger into a story with a happy ending! Checks can be made to "Hudson Community Food Pantry." Together, we can fill more plates and hearts.

Santa Claus is coming to Hudson

On Sunday Dec. 10 starting at noon. Santa's sleigh ride though Hudson is presented by The Hudson Recreation Department. Check out Santa's route you can track him during the route by going to www.facebook.com/TownOfHudsonNHRecreationDepartment. For more information email Chrissy Peterson at cpeterson@hudsonnh.gov

ation Department. Check out Santa's route you can track him during the route by going to www.facebook.com/TownOfHudsonNHRecreationDepartment. For more information email Chrissy Peterson at cpeterson@hudsonnh.gov

Used Toy Sale

The annual St. Thomas Used Toy Sale will be held on Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to noon at St Thomas Aquinas Church, Derry. This is the largest toy sale in New England! Beautiful gently used toys from dolls to games to ride ons and play sets and so much more are for sale at low, low cost. Arrive early for the best selection. All proceeds go to charity. Cash only. Bring your own bags.

Winter Stroll & Festival of Wreaths

Come see the holiday lights and decorations Sunday, Dec. 3 from 3 - 6 p.m., at 1 Memorial Dr., Hudson. Hot cocoa, apple cider, and treats will be available for purchase. The festival will be held indoors with each wreath being raffled off at the end of the event. Winners must pick up their wreaths by 7 p.m. Exciting activities will include face painting, temporary tattoos, hair tinseling, a scavenger hunt with prizes, games, DIY crafts, and a special visit from Santa! Please consider donating to Toys for Tots. All proceeds support the HMS PTO. Sponsored by the HMS PTO and Ducharme Tree Service

Toy Vouchers

Birth Right will be donating Toy Vouchers to families in need on Saturday Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to noon at the used toy sale at St. Thomas Church to benefit the churches outreach programs and St Gianna's Place. This sale is an annual event that provides an opportunity to start Christmas shopping while benefiting a

Meeting Schedule: Town of Hudson and Hudson School District

- Monday, Dec. 4: Hudson School Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 6: Budget Committee 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 6: Highway Safety Committee 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday Dec. 7: Budget Committee 6:30 p.m.
- Monday Dec. 11: Conservation Committee 7:00 p.m.
- Monday Dec. 11: Cable Utility Committee 7:00 p.m.

Check HudsonNH.gov and sau81.org for agendas and locations

worthy cause.

Diaper Donations

The Orchard Christian Church is looking to for donations of diaper, wipes, and monetary donations to give to the Makeover Ministry's FREE Diaper Pantry in Manchester NH. Please drop off donations at Orchard Christian Church, 136 Pillsbury Rd. Londonderry, from Nov. 3 - Dec. 3.

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. 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

continued on page 15

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Around Town

Continued from page 13

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.

Drop In Stitchers

On Friday, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 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.

Adventurers Storytime, Stone Soup

On Tuesday, Dec. 5, & 12 from 10 - 10:45 a.m. in the Community room of Rodgers Memorial Library. Join Ms. Tanya for stories, songs, games, and activities, for ages 3-5. Please bring one food item to add to the library's Stone Soup. Let the library know what you are bringing and please bring it prepared to go into the soup (peeled, chopped, etc). Children should be able to sit through a story. Siblings welcome. Registration required. Please indicate the number in your party when you register including adults and infants.

Intermediate Knitting Class

Registration required. Seating is limited to 10 participants only. On Dec. 1, & 8, from 10 - 11:30 a.m. in the Reading Area of Rodgers

Memorial Library. Do you know how to knit and purl? How to cast on? Then you're ready to learn about knitting socks! Learn the basics of knitting a sock in this 4-week class. Please bring one (1) set of five (5) double-pointed knitting needles, wooden needles, not aluminum, size 4 (3.5 mm), no longer than 6" long.

Hanukkah Menorah Lighting

This year Chanukah begins on Thursday, Dec. 7, and ends on Thursday, Dec. 14. Visit <https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/hanukkah> for a brief explanation of this holiday. Join at Etz Hayim Synagogue as they commemorate the victory of the Maccabees. On Friday, Dec. 8, Etz Hayim Synagogue will host a Second Night Chanukah menorah lighting, with pizza dinner and Family Shabbat Service. Pizza dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., (RSVP is required - email Rabbi@etzhayim.org to reserve your space). At 6:30 p.m., they will light their giant outdoor menorah and sing Chanukah melodies led by Rabbi Levy and Amy. Indoor menorah lighting and Family Shabbat service follows at 7:15 p.m. BYO menorah and 3 candles as we brighten the winter night. Etz Hayim Synagogue is located at 1 1/2 Hood Road, Derry, NH. Visit us at www.etzhayim.org, or call 603-432-0004.

Mystery Lover's Book Club

On Monday, Dec. 18, & 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 Nita Prose.

Afternoon Book Group

On Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 1:30 - 3 p.m., in the Community Room of Rodgers Memorial Library. This group will discuss *The man who invented Christmas*: how Charles Dickens's A Christmas carol rescued his career and revived our holiday spirits by Les Standiford.

Seeking Donations

Meals on Wheels Holiday Gift Program is seeking donations by Dec. 1, they are looking for; \$10 Gift Cards to Local Grocery Stores, Pharmacies, Dollar General, Pre-packaged Cookies & Fruit Snacks, Forever Stamps & Stationery, and Monetary Donations (to purchase items). Checks payable to Meals on Wheels & mailed to: PO Box 910, Merrimack, NH 03054. Items may be dropped off at our Admin Office located at 395 DW Hwy, Merrimack, or at any site location 603-424-9967 hcmow.org Please help fill gift bags for the participants of the home delivered program.

Rotary Club Meeting

The Hudson Rotary Club will meet at the Rodgers Memorial Library on Thursday, Dec. 14 from 7:30 - 9 a.m., in the Community Room

Democrats Meeting

The Hudson Democrats will have a general meeting at the Rodgers Memorial Library on Thursday, Jan. 11



LOYOLA BOUND Congratulations to Hudson residents Alex Dumont on signing his National Letter of Intent to play College Division 1 Lacrosse at Loyola University in Maryland. Brady Dumont signed his National Letter of Intent to play College Division 1 Lacrosse at Villanova University in Pennsylvania. Both boys are USA Lacrosse All-Americans and play for Bishop Guertin High School in Nashua. *Courtesy photo*

(No Dec. Meeting) from 7 - 8:45 p.m., in the Community Room.

Movers & Shakers

Toddler Storytime for kids that don't sit still for long. Songs, stories, games, and activities for ages 1-3. On Wednesdays Dec 6 & 13 from 10 - 10:30 a.m., and from 10:30 - 11 a.m., in the Community Room at Rodgers Memorial Library. Registration is required. Please indicate how many will attend including adults, infants, and siblings. Caretaker participates with child or children.

Songs & Snuggles

On Thursday's Dec. 7 &

14 from 10 - 10:30 a.m., in the Children's Programming Room of the Rodgers Memorial Library. For babies age birth to 18 months and their caregivers. Enjoy time together with other caregivers and their babies as we learn, play, and develop language and motor skills. Registration required. Please let staff know how many people are in

your party, including your baby.

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. 5, 19, & 26 from 2:30 - 3 p.m.

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