



Londonderry Times

April 30, 2015 ♦ Volume 16 – Issue 18

A FREE Weekly Publication

Parents Pack School Board Meeting to Support Teaching Assistants

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The School Board considered at its April 21 meeting spending \$240,000 voters at the School District's Deliberative Session added to the operating budget to increase primary instructional assistant hours.

The funding would restore a proposed \$118,000 reduction in teaching assistant hours and increase the number of hours aides are in first and second grade classrooms to three hours per day, an increase of approximately 1.5 hours.

In his proposed budget, before it was amended, Superintendent Nate Greenberg recommended elimi-

nating four elementary teachers and aides who remain in first and second grades, as well as several aides in third grade classrooms, to "right-size" staff as the District faces the challenges of declining enrollment.

"A little over 80 percent of the budget is personnel. In this case, what we did was take a look at the total number of students, class size, the number of certified personnel, the instructional model we wanted to use, utilization of technology, maintaining quality of service and utilization of special education services," he said.

Greenberg said he and administrators laid out a

plan that included restructuring staff and using a variety of resources to support student learning.

The detailed plan, outlined by the Superintendent and supported by his principals, results in a ratio of almost one certified staff member to every 10 students in the classroom during some portions of the day. This is accomplished by the use of reading, educational support and special education teachers, including the disciplines of math and reading, Chairman Steve Young said.

"This environment, where certified professionals are at a higher

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School Board Considers Leaving Federal Lunch Program at LHS

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

To boost participation in lunches at the high school, Business Administrator Peter Curro recommended the School District leave the Federal Lunch Program.

The School Board considered the costs and benefits of leaving the Federal Lunch Program at the high school during its Dec. 18 budget workshop, with members expressing a strong desire to break free.

Curro said Salem High School, the first to pilot the Free Milk Program after leaving the Federal Lunch Program, has seen a dramatic increase in

sales of its non-reimbursable food items, such as French fries and a hamburger.

Despite losses that would result from leaving the federal program, including a potential 50 percent cut in the price at which the District could sell milk, an obligation to reimburse the free and reduced lunch program at an estimated cost of \$40,000 and a potential reduction in adequacy funding; the Board thinks the only way to re-capture interest in the school lunch program is to bring back the meals kids enjoyed eating in the past.

"When I was in the high school a while ago,

kids were begging to get out of school and go get food elsewhere. That just indicates to me the food is not the type they want," board member John Laferriere said at the December meeting.

Food Service is running a deficit due to restrictions from the Federal government, declining enrollment, and student participation, local

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Londonderry Fire Department crews and Granite Ridge Energy workers spent some time Thursday morning, April 23, sharpening their skills at the plant on substantial height rescue. Photo by Chris Paul

Crews Gain Life-saving Skills in Training at Power Plant

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

A training exercise at Granite Ridge Energy's power plant last week provided an opportunity for local fire personnel and staff at the plant to sharpen their response skills, should an emergency arise requiring rescue from a substantial height.

Londonderry Fire Battalion Chief Jim Roger said the Department's response was "excellent," and Gran-

ite Ridge Environmental Health and Safety Manager Sue Prior said she was pleased to see her staff reacted appropriately in the simulated emergency, even remembering to bring an automated external defibrillator (AED) to the scene as a precaution.

For the training exercise, a mannequin was placed on the platform of an exhaust stack at about 100 feet high with a tag describing his symp-

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School Board Considers GPS Technology, Alert Software for Buses

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

After a tougher than usual winter for bus routing, Business Administrator Peter Curro proposed bus routing software and an alert system that would allow the School District to lay out more efficient bus routes and send notifications to parents of delays.

"This past winter, we encountered many delays due to road conditions, weather and accidents that delayed the arrival of the school bus," Curro told the School Board at its April 21 meeting. "Technology today allows us to instantly communicate to the parents and alert that some action may be in their best inter-

est when planning for their student pick-up."

In addition to the bus routing software and alert system, Curro proposed GPS (Global Positioning System) services that would allow bus terminal staff and School District staff to have access to the location of the buses during their routes.

The GPS services would also allow families to track their students' buses in real time using the SafeStop App, which they would download and subscribe to at their own expense.

"Parents could use this for bad weather days where it's snowing, or when it's a little cold and they want to move the student out as they know

the bus is coming around the corner," Curro said.

GPS chips would be installed on the District's buses, also allowing parents with the app to use the tracking service when their students are headed to and from athletic events and field trips.

Curro said the service would be valuable during inclement weather, mandatory rerouting, breakdowns and accidents.

"If approved, the District is ready to install the GPS chips in a few buses this year to conduct a pilot test of the alert and tracking system," Curro said. "We intend to have all issues resolved and ready for use before the beginning of school this August. We feel these

technologies will provide better communication to parents and provide more efficient routes and practical locations for bus stops for the various grade levels."

The cost of the bus routing software system is \$19,000 in the first year, with an additional annual fee of \$4,000. The "Alert" Notification System would cost an additional \$1,000 annually, and the GPS hardware and software fleet technology to track the fleet of buses in a live environment would cost the District \$5,750 annually.

Parents who wish to utilize the GPS technology would be charged a monthly fee of \$4.95 for use of the SafeStop App.

"When we asked about computerizing the routing process and installing GPS services a few years back, the cost was pretty high and we deemed them to be too expensive at

that time," Curro said. "Like any other technology, the cost has come down substantially."

The cost of the technology in 2012, when the District renewed its contract with Student Transportation of America (STA), was double what it is now, Curro said.

Funding for the new services would come from the Business Office professional services line, which is intended to fund unanticipated studies and services that are related to business activities, according to Curro, who said it would be appropriate to fund the bus routing software for \$19,000 in FY15, as the District would need to install the product as soon as possible to test and use it for this summer's bus routing. The remaining programs and services, if approved, could be funded in FY16.

Chairman Steve Young raised the issue of privacy, noting the Board would definitely have to establish policies related to use of the GPS technology.

"I would imagine we might have parents concerned about being able to track the buses," he said.

"I'm intrigued by it; my only question would be is the price going to go down next year?" board member John Laferriere asked.

Curro said once the GPS chips are installed on the buses, service fees are annual and the District could choose to stop utilizing any or all of them. The District's contract with Student Transportation of America expires in 2019.

The Board did not take action on the proposal and plans to discuss the technology further at its May 5 meeting.



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- PROVIDER ON CALL - SMOKING AND LUNG CANCER

Each year, about 3,000 nonsmoking adults will die of lung cancer as a result of breathing second-hand smoke. About 213,000 people will be told they have lung cancer this year. The average age of people diagnosed with lung cancer is 70. Lung cancer is not common in people younger than age 45. Lung cancer is the leading cause of death from cancer among both men and women.

More people die of lung cancer every year than from colon, breast, and prostate cancers combined. Lung cancer makes up 12% of all cancer cases. It causes 29% of all deaths from cancer. Cancer is the uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells somewhere in the body. The lungs are the organs that nourish our blood with fresh oxygen and eliminate carbon dioxide when we breathe. Put smoking and cancer together and you have a deadly disease - one of the most common cancers and the leading cause of cancer deaths.

Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer. About 87% of lung cancer cases result from smoking or exposure to tobacco smoke. Compared to nonsmokers, men who smoke are 23 times more likely to die of lung cancer. Women who smoke are 13 times more likely to die of lung cancer than nonsmokers. The risk for lung cancer is no different in those who smoke light or low-tar products.

Cigarette smoke contains about 4,000 chemical agents, including over 60 carcinogens. In addition, many of these substances, such as carbon monoxide, tar, arsenic, and lead, are poisonous and toxic to the human body. Nicotine is a drug that is naturally present in the tobacco plant and is primarily responsible for a person's addiction to tobacco products, including cigarettes.

Smoking is also responsible for most cancers of the larynx, oral cavity and pharynx, esophagus, and bladder. In addition, it is a cause of kidney, pancreatic, cervical, and stomach cancers.

Symptoms of lung cancer can be subtle. Smoking and second hand smoke are well known causes of lung cancer but not the only possible ones. A doctor will order specific diagnostic tests to determine whether or not you have lung cancer. Treatment for lung cancer can be complex, so you want to make sure you are in the hands of the right medical specialist.

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South School Celebrates Earth Day with Eco-Themed Art Show

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

South Elementary School's Art Show featured a variety of pieces made primarily from repurposed materials.

The eco-themed show, scheduled by a fortunate coincidence for Earth Day last week, served as an opportunity for families to learn how everyday items that often end up in the waste stream can be repurposed into works of art.

"It's an interesting thing to talk to the kids about," said Cynthia Robinson, who was South School's Eco-artist-in-residence for a week earlier this month. "When I was growing up, these were new concepts - renew, reuse and recycle."

Robinson said kids today know renew, reuse, recycle, but they don't always have a deeper understanding of the concepts behind those words.

To help her students gain a stronger appreciation for those concepts, Robinson showed her students how to make stepping stones with repurposed bottle caps and buttons donated by Crawley Falls Antiques in Brentwood; and recycled paper with natural items they found around the

school, like pine needles and bark that fell last year.

Students also thought about how art can convey a message as they created signs with multi-colored, repurposed bottle caps organized into words they brainstormed that describe eco-art, such as "clean."

At the art show April 22, students proudly autographed the sign their class completed and walked family and friends down the school hallways, which were adorned with student work. A variety of sculptures made from recycled boxes, paper towels, wood and markers were on display in art teacher Marcia Connors' classroom.

Connors students' work was inspired by their collaboration with Robinson, as well as by what they learned about other eco-artists, such as John Dahlsen, who creates artwork from materials he finds on the beach, and American sculptor Louise Nevelson, an early eco-artist who worked with recycled wood she found in New York City.

Connors said through their work with Robinson and learning about other eco-artists, the students learned that reusing materials to create art is about



Jake and Dylan Smith, both 8, admire some of the wooden sculptures on display in the art room during last week's art show at South Elementary School.

more than just cleaning up the environment and preventing plastics from entering the waste stream. "It showed them that they can make do so much more with the materials," she said.



Cynthia Robinson, South School's Eco-artist-in-residence, has Paige Dube autograph the bottle cap sign during last week's art show. Photos by Chris Paul

Eco-art shows that art doesn't always have to be about creating something beautiful, Robinson said. It can also be about creating something that serves a purpose, or conveying a message.

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Editorial

A New Hampshire Advantage

In recent weeks, Presidential hopefuls have begun paying barnstorming visits to New Hampshire, a phenomenon sure to increase in the months ahead for this first-in-the-nation Presidential primary state.

Whether chatting with breakfast diners, glad-handing tavern patrons, hosting "town hall" question and answer sessions or making their case at fundraising dinners, whichever candidate interests you is likely to be planning a visit down the road or across town or in the community next door.

We encourage you to take a personal look at the candidates, check out the man or woman behind the public relations hype, and hear for yourself whether your views match up to the promises of the person who is eager for your vote.

In the next few months, you should have the chance to see a horde of candidates in person. We urge you to make time to do so. We live in a state that gives us the opportunity to vote for a candidate based on our personal impression, not what a paid promoter wants us to think. That's an opportunity residents of other states can only envy.

If you're a Democrat or an Independent, you should be in the room with the Republican candidates as well. Hear for yourself what they are saying, if for no other reason than to know the opposition.

But the clock is ticking. Winning or losing in New Hampshire doesn't seal the fate of any candidate, but it definitely plays a significant role in what will happen in other states in the months ahead.

So ask some questions. And if you have the chance, don't accept the answer of "I favor smaller government, I want to end health care reform, I want to cut the deficit, I want a strong foreign policy."

Anyone can say that – and more often than not, they do. Anyone can attack their presumed opponent rather than express their own views.

Platitudes and generalities mean nothing. Push the candidate to offer specifics. How will each candidate help the unemployed? How does a candidate's religious views impact his or her decision making? How will a candidate "fix" Social Security in laymen's language? What can be done about ISIS?

Ask real questions - politely. If you don't get real answers, keep in mind that failure to answer or be specific may be the most telling answer of all.

By virtue of living here, the significance of our vote resonates from one coast to the other, from the border with Canada to the border with Mexico. That's another reason to vote intelligently. And that means asking tough questions and making up our minds for ourselves.

Letters

Instructional Assistants

To the editor:

I am writing this letter in response to Steve Young's letter to the editor and the recent article regarding instructional assistants in the elementary schools.

In his letter Mr. Young states, "In my opinion, they (aides) should have been added much sooner." Well almost 25 years ago the Londonderry School District did realize the value of assistants in the early elementary classrooms. Instructional assistants have been supporting certified teachers in first grade classrooms since 1991 and in the second and third grade classrooms since at least 1995. I know this because my son was in our school system in 1995, and I have friends whose children were in school four years prior.

There may have been overcrowding at Matthew Thornton before redistricting; however, South School, and I suspect North School, never had close to 30 children in the early elementary grades. I would be interested to know the average first grade class size at Matthew Thornton in the early 1990s. Is it possible it was the upper elementary grades with the 30-plus students Mr. Young is referring to in his letter?

In the early 2000s instructional assistants were added to the fourth and fifth grade classrooms because of larger class sizes, and they were eliminated in 2011 when the numbers declined. Although the overall enrollment numbers are down, the average first grade class size has remained fairly consistent over the years. The number of first grade classrooms were added or

reduced based on the number of incoming students.

Building a strong foundation for students to build upon in future school years is critical. Our young children need to have a solid foundation and a love of learning in order to be college and career ready. Instructional assistants in the early elementary grades play an important role in building that foundation. First graders are not independent learners. iPads and busy work cannot and should not be a substitute for instructional assistants in the classroom.

Class size could not have been the reason assistants were added to first grade classrooms almost 25 years ago, and it should not be the reason they are eliminated now!

The voters of Londonderry have given the school district a gift - the opportunity to keep more adults in the early elementary classrooms. I can only hope the School Board will accept this gift graciously and honor the wishes of the voters!

Anne Marie Govoni
Londonderry

Musquash Task Force

To the editor:

Is anyone surprised by the recommendation of "The Musquash Task Force?" What I am surprised at is that anyone with an agenda was allowed to be on this "Task Force."

Obviously anyone who purchased property around the Musquash wants to ban all shooting. Yet they knew, or should have known, that it was allowed when they moved in.

Also I do not know who is the man that prowls the Musquash harassing people and

claims to be "the town" but he should not be on the "Task Force." He has a clear opinion and agenda. He wants no shooting of any kind in the Musquash. Now he claims that target shooting is dangerous and hunting is not. Well, statistics and records will prove him wrong. Oh but this will just help him when he makes his next move. That is to ban all shooting of any kind, including hunting, in the Musquash. That is coming.

As I said before, make some sensible rules and limit the locations where people can shoot, and it will be a place we can all enjoy. Don't punish everyone due to a couple careless people.

Shall we ban all sports cars, SUVs and motorcycles from our roads because a small minority can't follow the laws and drive safely? Oh and obviously we should ban all fast food because people can't seem to stop littering in our town.

One last thing - a hunting license in order to target shoot? Sign in at the Police Station to target shoot? A training course for target shooting and a specified permit should be enough; one should not have to drive across town to sign in and then back across town to shoot.

Eric Lynch
Londonderry

Praise for School Choice

To the editor:

Recently, I was invited to visit two charter schools attended by Londonderry residents. One was the Academy of Science and Design (ASD) and the other was the Foundation Academy.

The ASD is a STEM

Continued on page 5

Londonderry Times

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Lunches

Continued from page 1
officials said.

Additionally, the cost to produce a meal exceeds the District's revenue per meal. The schools would have to sell an additional 130 meals daily to break even.

If it moves to the Free Milk Program, Curro said they recommend setting the price of lunch at \$2.75 for the high school, \$2.25 for the middle school and \$2 for the elementary schools, up from \$2.20 at the high school, \$2.10 at the middle school and \$1.80 at the elementary

school.

To become more financially stable, Curro and Food Service staff recommend including more choices, designing the serving area to include a grill for freshly grilled meals and a sandwich and salad bar, improving the look of the serving area with new equipment, and increasing the portions so the price is a value meal.

Last week, Curro said lifting calorie maximums mandated under the Federal Lunch Program is also expected to boost sales.

"The food is fine, they just don't get enough

of it," he said.

According to a report Curro and Food Service staff presented to the Board, the Free Milk Program is expected to increase overall lunch meals participation by 40 percent.

The change to the Free Milk Program has only been recommended for the high school; however, the District's commodities truck, which unloads food for all the schools at the high school, where it is stored in a centralized freezer and distributed to the other buildings, would no longer be permitted to go to the high school if

the District withdrew from the Federal Lunch Program.

Because the middle and elementary schools don't have a large enough storage unit for the federal meal deliveries, the District would have to find a way to divide the foods or build a storage unit at one of the other schools.

"We're going to argue hard that because we have a central location, the other schools shouldn't be penalized because of the high school," Curro said. "We have also looked at a freezer warehouse and a place to store dry foods."

Another hurdle to overcome is a potential reduction in adequacy funding.

Curro said the Department of Education doesn't know how switching to the Free Milk Program would affect adequacy funding for the District, but that students enrolled in free lunch will still be counted in the funding formula and the District would lose only 23 students on reduced lunch.

In addition to moving to the Free Milk Program, the Board considered recommended renovations to the high school cafeteria, including the addition

of a grill, opening the wall between the serving line and snack bar, a new serving line, the addition of a salad bar and a Grab 'n' Go refrigerator.

"What we're seeing is the quality of food is important, choice is important, presentation is important, and presentation of the environment is important," Curro said. "The kitchen hasn't been renovated for many years. We're looking at face lifting the kitchen area in the cafeteria."

The School Board will continue to consider its options regarding school lunches.

Letters

Continued from page 4

school and the Foundation Academy focuses on the humanities.

It was a wonderful experience to see such talented and motivated

students as well as the teachers and parents who do so much to provide an excellent alternate education environment. Charter schools are public schools, but receive no funding from property taxes. I was proud to sup-

port HB563, which will help the parents of these schools ease some of their financial burden. I also want to thank Ms. Kim Fusaris and Ms. Deb Wait for inviting me to tour these schools and meet the students.

Londonderry is also fortunate to have a great public elementary and high school that proudly serves the needs for most students. The parents and teachers work hard to support them and provide the best for the chil-

dren. It is comforting to know there is a choice of school types for those students who perform well in one or the other.

In the end, the objective is to provide the best opportunity for learning so that our future genera-

tion can become effective and productive citizens. I congratulate both systems on performing so well.

State Rep. Doug Thomas
R-Londonderry

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National Grid and Eversource invite you to an open house to learn about the **Merrimack Valley Reliability Project**, a proposed new overhead transmission line between Londonderry, New Hampshire, and Tewksbury, Massachusetts. Approximately 18 miles of the new line will pass through Londonderry, Hudson, Windham, and Pelham in New Hampshire in an existing utility right-of-way.

This proposed transmission improvement will strengthen the electric system to better serve residents and businesses in southern New Hampshire and northeastern Massachusetts. As part of the approval process, Eversource and National Grid will file an application with the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) to construct and operate the proposed transmission line.

Keeping the lines of communication open is an important part of our work. We look forward to sharing information with you about the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project at open houses and public information sessions in both Rockingham County and Hillsborough County. Project team members will provide information, answer your questions and receive your feedback.

Rockingham County
Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Public Open House:
Drop in between 5:30–7 p.m.
SEC Public Information Session:
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Matthew Thornton Elementary School, Cafeteria
275 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH 03053

Hillsborough County
Thursday, May 7, 2015

Public Open House:
Drop in between 5:30–7 p.m.
SEC Public Information Session:
7–9 p.m.

Hudson Memorial School, Cafeteria and Gymnasium
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For more information about the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project, visit www.ma-nhsolution.com, email Info@ma-nhsolution.com, or call 844-646-8427.

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Elder Affairs Considers Warrant Article for Senior Center Work

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Elder Affairs Committee discussed the need for an expansion of the Senior Center, and is considering a warrant article to fund the renovations.

"Yesterday, we had 35 people in one room for Bone Builders, and in the other room there were 20-plus people for crafts and games," Vice Chairman Susan Haussler said. "I was with someone who needed assistance, and when we got into the dining room we could not move. There were at least three people with walkers, one person with a wheelchair, and several

people with canes. We need to expand to accommodate."

Town Council Liaison Joe Green recommended committee members speak at the Town's Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) meeting and address the project's designation as a level three priority.

Additionally, Green said the Committee could pursue funding for the expansion by drafting a warrant article for the Town's 2016 Warrant.

"I could draft something. I would definitely support that and I would present it for you," Green said.

And if the Town Council doesn't support the

warrant article, it could be passed as a citizen's petition, Green noted.

Alternate member Tam Siekmann offered to investigate grant opportunities that may be available for the project "so that it isn't a burden to the taxpayers."

"I think we should look at every option out there," she said.

In other business at the Tuesday, April 21 meeting:

- The Senior Center Fundraising Committee will hold its spring Craft Fair on June 20. Member Bonnie Ritvo said the group is looking for additional crafters to participate.

"We're hoping for 40 vendors, and we have 23, now," she said. Vendors bring their own tables and chairs, and the entry fee is \$35 per table.

Ritvo said all the vendors have donated hand-crafted items for a raffle to benefit the Senior Center.

Vendors have until May 1 to register for the fair, and Ritvo said the deadline will likely be extended.

For more information, contact the Senior Center at 432-8554.

- The Committee agreed to organize an informational session to educate members of the community about a law in New Hampshire relative to sur-

rogate health care decision-making by a family member or friend.

HB1434, which went into effect in January, establishes New Hampshire as a "familial state," meaning when a patient lacks capacity to make health care decisions, their designated agent is automatically a family member, Roberts explained.

The session would include a discussion about having an advance directive in place, which details a person's wishes related to health care decisions, should they lack capacity to make health care decisions.

Once a date is set for the event, the Committee

said they would inform the public by publicizing it in the Town newsletter and local media.

- The Committee discussed offering volunteer services to seniors in need of assistance with routine home maintenance, such as shoveling or minor electrical work around their home.

Chairman Bonnie Roberts said she would like to create a directory of volunteers interested in providing various services to members of the community in need.

Those who are interested in volunteering may contact Roberts by email at BRoberts@homehelpers.cc.

Miss New Hampshire 2015 to be Chosen May 2 in Derry

The 69th annual Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Competition will take place Thursday, April 30 through Saturday, May 2 at the Stockbridge Theatre on the campus of Pinkerton Academy in Derry.

Jamie Straton, sports director at WMUR-TV, and Miss New Hampshire 2014 Megan Cooley will emcee the event, which features 27 young women competing for the title of Miss New Hampshire 2015. More than \$52,000 in scholarships will be awarded to



Jaycie Greenberg

the contestants.

Local contestants are Miss Greater Derry, Jessica Avelar of Nashua; Miss Seacoast, Mariah Laro-

cque of Derry; Miss Stratham Fair, Stephanie Iacuzio of Derry; Miss Rockingham County, Holly Blanchard of Derry; and Miss Londonderry, Jaycie Greenberg of Windham.

"As the leading scholarship provider to young women in the state, we are looking forward to the crowning of a new Miss New Hampshire," said Brenda Keith, president of the Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Program. "Our organization awards thousands of dollars to women excelling in scholastic achievement, performing arts, healthy living, lead-

ership and community involvement. These scholarships serve to further our participants' education so they can continue to give back to the communities where they volunteer, work and live."

Tickets can be purchased for the Competition and After Party Gala at the Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Program office, 20 East Broadway, second floor, Derry or by calling 437-9027.

The preliminary competitions on April 30 and May 1 begin at 7 p.m., and tickets are \$10. Saturday's finals are at 6 p.m., and tickets range from \$35 to \$50.

Nutfield Publishing Editor Wins Awards for Nutfield News, Editorial

Nutfield Publishing Editor Leslie O'Donnell received first place in the National Federation of Press Women At-Large Communications Contest in the category of

publications regularly edited by entrant for her editing of the Nutfield News in 2014.

The winning entry now goes to national judging. She also received sec-

ond place in the editorial writing category for her editorial "Secrecy is King at School Board" about the Hampstead/Timberlane School Administrative Unit Board.



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Tikes on Trikes Raise Money for St. Jude Hospital



Students at Jacob's Ladder Pre-School in Londonderry raised over \$2,000 for St. Jude's Research Hospital last week. They set up a course in a parking lot complete with a car wash and filling station. *Photos by Chris Paul*

Four Sent to Hospital After Two Vehicle Crash Friday

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

A car crash on Nashua Road (Route 102) sent four people to the hospital last week, one for treatment of what Londonderry Fire Battalion Chief Mike McQuillen

described as serious injuries. Firefighters had to deploy heavy rescue equipment to free one person trapped in their car.

It took responding officers 12 minutes from the time the call came in at 4:57 p.m. Friday to arrive

at the scene and extricate the person, who was transported to Elliot Hospital in Manchester for treatment, according to McQuillen.

"They did a very good job," he said.

The remaining three patients were transported

to Parkland Medical Center in Derry for care.

The vehicles involved in the crash were a four-door sedan and pickup truck. The names of those involved are not being released.

The scene was cleared in about 40 minutes.

The Department called in mutual aid from Windham and Derry.

Earlier that day, around 3:58 p.m., fire officers were called to a car accident on Interstate 93, where two cars had collided in the high-speed, passing lane, according to

McQuillen.

No one was transported as a result of the crash, but paramedics evaluated those involved for injuries.

The firefighters used "Speedy-Dry," an absorbent material, to clean up an oil spill that resulted from the collision.

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Owen Walton Receives Lincoln Award, Kilduff and Mak Honored

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Standout teachers and a local volunteer were recognized for their dedication to serving the youth of Londonderry during Londonderry High School's spring pep rally last week.

Longtime volunteer Owen Walton received the Robert W. Lincoln Youth Service Award for his dedication to the residents and children of Londonderry, and math teachers Betty Wong-Mak and Sharon Kilduff were named Teachers of the Year.

Walton was the founder and remains the driving force of the Londonderry Scoreboard Association,



Betty Wong-Mak

an organization that donates money to the school's fields and teams. He sits on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Derry, and for many years coached youth sports in

Londonderry and was an active member of the Rotary Club.

"Owen Walton has given of himself selflessly for the youth of Londonderry and clearly exemplifies the spirit of giving and volunteerism that exemplifies Bob Lincoln's spirit of selfless volunteerism," said Art Psaledas, who presented Owen with the award at the pep rally.

Past recipients of the Lincoln Award include Kay Doyle, Terri Roucheleau, Scott Hale, Mary Theos, Dave Kelly, Ron Campo, John Reynolds, Bob Slater, Gary Fisher, Kevin Foley and Bob Saur.

The Robert W. Lincoln Award Selection Commit-



Art Psaledas, left, presented the Robert W. Lincoln Youth Service Award to Owen Walton, center, last week during the Londonderry High School Pep Rally. Walton's wife, Jane, is at right. Photo by Chris Paul

tee awards the honor to members of the community who demonstrate over a sustained period of time the characteristics of leadership, volunteerism, devotion to the Town and, especially, to the youth of the community.

Based on student nominations, Kilduff was named Middle School Teacher of the Year and Mak was named High School Tea-

cher of the Year at the April 24 pep rally.

Kilduff told attendees in her acceptance speech that she came to teaching after being a stay-at-home mom. Having worked as a senior software engineer for the MITRE Corporation in Bedford, Kilduff had to choose between an industry job or teaching - and she chose teaching.

In their nominations,

students wrote that Kilduff never gave up on students, and was fair and approachable to all.

Mak was described as a teacher who cares about her students, and it was said that no one is more deserving of the award. She is advisor to the International Club and Fellowship of Christian Athletes, as well as coach to the girls' varsity tennis team.

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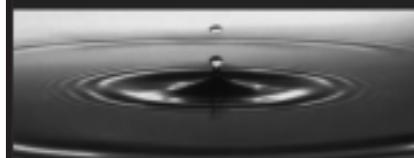
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Bay State Men Arrested in Traffic Stop Face More Charges

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry Police arrested a Massachusetts man after discovering he was in possession of multiple gift cards and a machine used to recode the gift cards with stolen credit card information.

On April 8, Wendy Joseph, 22, was stopped

for speeding while driving northbound on Interstate 93 just after 1 p.m.

Police discovered there was marijuana in the car during that stop and Joseph was arrested for possession of drugs in a motor vehicle. A passenger, Moise Theosmy, 22, of Malden, Mass., was also arrested and charged with possession of con-

trolled narcotic drugs in a motor vehicle.

Both men were released on \$5,000 personal recognizance bail, but are now facing additional charges related to the gift cards and credit card machine also found in the vehicle, according to Det. Chris Olson.

Police arrested Joseph on April 23 and charged

him with Receiving Stolen Property, as well as two counts of Conspiracy to Commit. He was held on \$5,000 cash bail and will face his charges in Derry District Court on May 5.

Olson said they anticipate Theosmy will be arrested in the near future for charges related to the gift cards and credit card machine.

Londonderry Grange Plant Sale Set for May 9

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry Grange will hold its annual Plant Sale and Garden Expo on May 9.

This year's event will feature annuals, vegetable plants and herbs for sale, as well as locally made crafts and fun activities for the kids.

In addition to serving as a fundraiser for the Grange, the Garden Expo is intended to inspire interest in the Grange and its mission - faith, hope, charity and fidelity, according to Cherylann Pierce.

"It's about families and community service," she said.

The plant sale will feature a wide variety of flowers and plants, including scaevolias, lanterns, lophospermums, sunpatiens, vinca vines, angelonias, bacopas, bidens, diascias, geraniums, gerberas, osteospermums and verbena.

Diane and Glenn Carey of Green River Growers will provide herbs for the fundraiser, and Mark Tepper will provide heirloom tomato plants, peppers and flowering plants.

"There will be more shade plants - we added New Guinea Impatiens by request. The vegetable plants, like tomatoes and peppers, were also hot sellers," Pierce said.

Local crafters will sell

a variety of goods, including infinity scarves, crocheted covers for planted pots and other smaller knitted item, and hand-made American Girl© doll tutus.

Children will have a chance to participate in a Mother's Day craft, where they will learn how to pot a marigold, then decorate the pot with markers. The event will also feature balloons, face painting, and a mechanical goat the kids can feed coins and rolled-up cash.

Pierce said the format for the event will be slightly different than in previous years.

With the Town Hall's recycling display, a display about the Grange and a display on the Boy Scouts set up inside the building, guests will select their plants outside, then pay for their selections inside the Grange Hall.

Bob Haefner of the New Hampshire State Grange will be at the event to answer visitors' questions about the Grange and its work in the community.

For more information about the Plant Sale and Garden Expo, contact Larry Pierce at lcd-pierce@aol.com.

OBITUARY

Barbara Cross



Barbara T. Cross, 85, of Bedford died April 21, 2015 at Carlyle Place in Bedford surrounded by her family.

She was born in Beverly, Mass., on April 1, 1930, a daughter of the late Wilfred and Lillian (Dupere) Boisvert.

She had resided in Bedford for the past three years, formerly living in Epping and Vero, Fla. She lived most of her life in Londonderry.

While living in Londonderry, she operated Barb's Beauty Salon, and for 10 years she and her former husband, Win Ralston, owned Ralston's Bread Board. She had also worked as a surgical assistant for Dr. David Taylor in Londonderry.

During her time in Vero Beach she worked as a ball shagger for the Dodgers.

In addition to her talents as a seamstress, she loved to entertain, throw parties and knew how to make people laugh. She was remembered as a "feisty Frenchwoman" by friends and family.

She is survived by her five daughters, Wendy Cabral and her husband, Dick, of Jupiter, Fla., Diana Gravel and her husband, Roger, of Manchester, Carol Ralston of Nashua, Debbie Ralston of Manchester and Heidi Ordway and her husband, David, of Chesapeake, Va.; one son, Kurt Ralston and his wife, Renee, of Simpsonville, S.C.; seven grandchildren, Ben Rae, Sean and Nicole Ordway, Nicholas and Emily Ralston, and Rick and Sally Cabral; seven great-grandchildren, Mia and Ali Rae, Austin and Jagger Spacy, and Kaeli, Jackson, and Makayla Cabral; a brother, Edward Boisvert and his wife, Lorraine, of Port Charlotte, Fla.; two sisters, Rita Flanders of South Carolina and Annette Pelletier and her husband, Herve, of Raymond; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Robert Cross, and by her sisters RoseAnn Barrett and Cecile Boisvert.

Following cremation, calling hours will be held on Thursday April 30, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium, 290 Mammoth Road, Londonderry. A Liturgy of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, May 1, at 10:30 a.m. in St. Mark's Church, One South Road, Londonderry. Burial will follow in Holy Cross Cemetery, Londonderry. To send a condolence or for more information, visit www.peabodyfuneralhome.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Seeing Eye, 10 Washington Valley Road, Morristown, NJ 07960 or to the New Hampshire Association for the Blind, 25 Walker St., Concord, NH 03301.

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Fire Crew

Continued from page 1
toms. "Contractor Bob," age 58, had stopped responding to co-workers

over the radio and was found conscious, complaining of chest pain. "I was looking to see if my staff would take the AED up just in case, even

though "Bob" was conscious - and they did," Prior said.

Firefighters and paramedics arrived on the scene and lowered "Bob" from the platform on a stretcher using a pulley system called a "Multipurpose Device," which the Department purchased from CMC Rescue Department.

It took the Department 22 minutes to arrive on the scene, make contact with "Bob" and assess his condition, then establish the rigging and lower him to safety on the ground, according to Roger.

"That's a real good time, because within another eight minutes we could have him transported for care at Elliot Hospital," he said.

The exercise will be performed again by the Town's three other fire battalions, which will also provide an opportunity for Prior to evaluate different members of her staff at the plant as well.

"This will definitely be a benchmark for the other groups," Roger said.

The Londonderry Fire Department visits the plant often. Just last year, crews worked inside the plant to complete a confined space drill.

"They are familiar with our site. That's huge," Prior said. "It's really a mutually beneficial relationship."

The day before the April 23 training drill, Prior said fire personnel visited the plant with a truck to evaluate the scene and in the process realized the truck's ladder could reach the first platform of the exhaust stack. She said learning details like that through their training exercises makes a big difference in lowering response times.

Additionally, Roger said the training exercise at Granite Ridge will provide his crews valuable practice working with the equipment they would use in a variety of emergency scenarios that could present throughout the Town - such as rescues from cellular towers and construction sites.

"It doesn't matter if it's

a rescue from 100 feet or 180 feet. What they learned here they can take anywhere in town," he said, noting the Multipurpose Device they used to bring "Contractor Bob" to safety is the same equipment they would use in a confined space rescue, or any other rescue where the patient is isolated at a

substantial height. And with numerous industrial sites located in Londonderry and substantial, ongoing construction along Pettengill Road, the Fire Department must be equipped to provide the unique services that set it apart from other departments across the state, Roger said.



Firefighters lower the mannequin "Bob" from one of the exhaust stacks at Granite Ridge Energy last week, as part of a training exercise.



A gurney carrying the mannequin "Bob" is lowered by Londonderry firefighters in a training session held at Granite Ridge Energy. Photos by Chris Paul

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Londonderry Grad Overcomes Odds to Complete Boston Marathon

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

After overcoming significant odds and months of training, Ryan Joy O'Connor crossed the finish line at the Boston Marathon.

Born with a congenital heart defect, Truncus Arteriosus, O'Connor, who graduated from Londonderry High School in 2006, has undergone four open heart surgeries, the first when she was only 3 months old. She ran the Boston Marathon to raise money for children who suffer from heart defects like hers, and for the hospital that helped give her the opportunity to get to the finish line.

"It was more than I even imagined," said O'Connor, who was greeted after more than eight hours on the course by family, friends and her patient

partners with the Boston Children's Hospital "Miles for Miracles" team, who are also living with heart defects.

At mile 25, O'Connor's patient partner Emily, 8, and her grandmother joined her for the final stretch; and O'Connor said she was pleasantly surprised to see her patient partner George Finn, a 3-year-old who was diagnosed with tonsillitis that morning, also waiting for her at the finish.

When O'Connor went to give a hug to the parents of her close friend, Lacey Warner, who passed away at the age of 16 last year due to complications resulting from Truncus Arteriosus, they placed the medal their daughter would have received this year as O'Connor's patient partner around her neck.



Londonderry graduate Ryan Joy O'Connor was met at the finish line of the Boston Marathon by family, friends and patient partners carrying blue and yellow glow sticks. Courtesy photo

"It was really, really incredible. A super special moment," O'Connor said.

Because of her heart defect, O'Connor completed the marathon following a run/walk strategy. She said race volunteers start-

ed taking down water stations and cleaning up the course before she was even at the halfway mark, and she had to move to the side of the road around mile nine.

Fortunately, she said she "knew the course like

the back of (her) hand."

She also had lots of support from her coaches, who ran with her from Mile 16 to Mile 19; and her parents, Bill and Joy O'Connor, as well as her three siblings, walked with her from Mile 13 to Mile 17. Her younger sister, who lives in California, surprised her with a visit.

"It's a rare occurrence we're all together. She surprised me at a family party before the marathon. That made it even more emotional that she surprised me," said O'Connor, who was further inspired by seeing how much her parents and family were invested in her journey and how happy they were to see her compete.

In addition to completing the marathon, O'Connor raised nearly \$24,000 for the Boston Children's

Hospital. Her goal was \$10,000, but O'Connor had hoped to raise \$26,000 - a number symbolic of her 26 years of life and the 26 miles she ran through Boston.

Donations are accepted until May 20. To make a donation to the Boston Children's Hospital Heart Center or for more information about O'Connor's journey, visit her fundraising page at <http://fundraise.childrenshospital.org/goto/ryanjoyoconnor>, or her Facebook group "26.2 for Twenty-Six."

O'Connor said the marathon culminated in the "most perfect way" and she's having trouble summing up her experience in a final email to all her supporters.

"It's so hard to find the words to describe how amazing it felt," she said.

Lancer Spirit Editor to Represent State at Journalism Conference in D.C.

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Lancer Spirit Editor Conor Battles will represent New Hampshire at the Al Neuharth Free Spirit Scholarship and Journalism Conference this summer.

It's the eighth year in a row a staff member of the Londonderry High School newspaper was selected to attend the all-expenses paid conference at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

"We have a bit of a legacy there, now," said Battles, who is looking forward to meeting this year's group of "free spirits," students of journalism who show initiative, drive and individuality in

their work.

Battles, a junior, completed an application process, submitting a collection of his work and essays, to earn the trip to the conference and a \$1,000 scholarship.

The scholarships and conference are designed to inspire and encourage students to pursue journalism.

"Every editor who has gone to this conference in the past has talked about it being one of the greatest experiences of their lives. They get to meet professional journalists and network with other outstanding student journalists from around the country," Lancer Spirit advisor Mary DeWinkleleer said. "I am very

proud of Conor and thrilled that he gets to have this opportunity."

Previous Lancer Spirit winners include Ryan Rivard and Katie Lannan, 2008 (both a male and female winner from each state were selected until 2009); Eoghan Kelly, 2009; Jen DePiero, 2010; Meghan Rimol, 2011; Stephen Wong, 2012; Matt Brown,

2013; and Emily Casey, 2014.

When asked why the Lancer Spirit has been so successful in the competition over the past eight years, Battles said he thinks it's due to a combination of the editorial staff and advisor, DeWinkleleer.

"We're trying new things and working with

the formula, and it's getting results," said Battles, whose writing is focused on art and entertainment.

Next year, Battles will serve as the paper's Editor in Chief.

He hopes to pursue journalism in college and said he enjoys "being in the position to be the voice of (their) readers."

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Schools Add STEM Activities to Students' Classrooms

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

As the School District investigates implementing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education into the curriculum, individual schools are introducing students to STEM with special activities and events.

Last week, North Elementary School celebrated National Library Week by offering students the chance to participate in a variety of STEM activities in the library each day. Earlier, on April 1, the Matthew Thornton Elementary School Parent Teacher Association hosted an all-day STEM museum filled with interactive stations for students in

second through fifth grades.

One of the goals of STEM week was to show teachers that incorporating STEM is easy, fun and engages students, according to teacher Beth Haarlander, selected by the School District, along with teacher Lillian Pirog, to attend STEM workshops.

"We tried to put together activities teachers could easily put together in their classrooms. We used materials we already had in the school and recycled materials, like cereal boxes," said Library Media Specialist Kate Thompson.

Although the activities used simple materials, they provided students

with unique challenges that held their attention.

"There hasn't been a single student that wasn't engaged and involved," said Carol Currier, a fifth grade teacher whose students participated in the NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) lunar lander challenge, in which they were tasked with building a vehicle to safely land two marshmallow astronauts.

Activities for first and second graders were literature based - students read a picture book, then completed a STEM activity related to the story, Thompson said.

Students in the school's fourth grade classes explored different structures used in bridges,

then built different styles of bridges out of index cards and tested how many pennies their structures could support. Third graders explored the construction of tall structures and cooperated to build a freestanding pipe cleaner tower.

STEM education is characteristically project-based and hands-on, encouraging students to take initiative and work collaboratively to complete a challenge. The goal of STEM education is to encourage students to take an interest in STEM subjects at an early age.

Incorporating STEM into the District's curriculum aligns with its college and career readiness goals, teaching students problem solving and critical thinking skills, according to Haarlander.

"That's where a lot of jobs in the future will be," she said.



North School student Joanna Swarbrick builds a house from gumdrops and toothpicks last week during the school's STEM activities. Photo by Chris Paul

Correction:

A photo on page 12 of the April 23 edition misidentified a Londonderry High School student. Alex Augusto was misidentified as Anvar Bieler. He is pictured fitting the top to a table in woodworking class.

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— LONDONDERRY SPORTS —

Londonderry Softball Squad's Offense Gets Itself Going

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

After scuffling mightily during its first several games of the 2015 season, the Londonderry High softball team's offense began showing signs of potency by the end of last week.

The Lady Lancers had their offense start to percolate some in a loss to Bishop Guertin, click into a higher gear in a win over Concord, and then ramp up yet again in a drubbing of the rival Pinkerton Academy crew at week's end.

The Lady Lancers continued to try to get their attack into gear Wednesday, April 22, when they played host to the Bishop Guertin Lady Cardinals of Nashua. They did better, but not well enough to avert a 6-3 loss to the opponent in suffering their third straight loss.

The Nashuans raced out to a 3-0 lead with single runs in the first, third, and fourth innings, but Londonderry answered with a single marker in the latter half of the fourth inning and then two more in the bottom of the sixth to knot the score at 3-3.

However, the visitors scored three more times in the top of the seventh and wound up bagging the 6-3 win.

Ali Nelson rapped two hits and drove in two of the LHS run, and Justine McElman was also good for two safeties and one RBI. Londonderry finished with a total of seven hits.

The outcome wound up being better for coach Wayne MacDougall's mob two days later in Concord as the Lady Lancers rebounded from an early 4-0 deficit to win 8-6.

Versatile freshman Maryellen Leach took over in the pitching circle in the second inning after the host Crimson Tide had bagged its early advantage, and she held Concord in check for a while while her offense plated five runs in the top of the fourth, two more in the fifth, and one more in the seventh to claim an 8-4 lead.

The hosts scored

twice more in the bottom of the seventh to close the gap, but they couldn't rebound fully.

The Lady Lancers bashed out 15 hits in the victory, with Elizabeth Niven smacking three and Val Shay, McElman, Katrina Rivard, and Leach each tallying two. Shay also drove in two runs.

The Lancer squad wasn't quite as prolific with hits when it faced the Pinkerton Lady Astros in Beeman Trophy action last Saturday, April 25 - tallying just seven safeties - but the final score showed the Lady Lancers collecting an 8-1 victory from the rival.

Londonderry busted open a tight 1-0 game with a seven-run fifth frame to claim an 8-0 lead. And all Pinkerton could respond

with was a single marker in the bottom half of the sixth.

LHS pitcher Leach held the hosts to just four hits and smacked one of two home runs bashed by Londonderry - fellow ninth grader Lauren Misaszek had the other - as the Lady Lancers evened their season record at 3-3.

Winning pitcher Leach wound up being the only Londonderry hitter to tally two hits in the lopsided win.

The Lady Lancers took another trip down victory road Monday when they hosted the Exeter High Lady Blue Hawks and pasted that opponent by an 8-2 score. Londonderry's record moved over the .500 mark to 4-3 with that success, while Exeter slipped to 1-5.



LHS pitcher Maryellen Leach hurls to the plate as shortstop Justine McElman and left fielder Katrina Rivard look on during their team's win at PA.

Photo by Chris Paul

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Lady Lancer Lax Squad Wins One Decision, Then Drops Three

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

After pounding its way to a blowout victory of the Do-

ver High Green Wave during the middle of last week, the Londonderry High girls' lacrosse squad suffered its first two divi-

sional losses of the spring on consecutive days late in the week.

Returning coach Bob Slater saw his Lady Lancers hammer the Dover crew by a 20-2 tally on the seacoast Wednesday, April 22. But the locals then dropped tight decisions to both Bishop Guertin and Pinkerton Axcademy to see their 2015 Division I record slip to 3-2.

In the 20-2 demolition of the Dover side, Slater's squad sprinted out to a 15-1 lead by halftime and never had any reason to look back over its shoulder.

Senior Noelle Lambert and Sarah Bell paced the attack with three goals and one assist apiece, Breda Holland and Gabby Morris were both good for three goals, Chelsea Lewis contributed two goals and two helpers, and single goals were netted by Dominique Breault, Catie Derhak, June Cranmer, Jill McIntyre, Kirsten Hogleund, and Emily Holland.

However, the locals were then dealt their first divisional loss in the form of an 8-7 defeat at the

hands of the BG Lady Cardinals in Nashua last Friday, April 24.

Londonderry led 5-3 at the half, but then got outscored by its host by a 5-2 tally in the second half in losing the decision.

Holland scored twice for LHS, Lambert and Lewis each had a goal and a helper, and Bell potted one tally. Keeper Michaela Kewley contributed eight saves.

In the 12-10 loss to the two-time defending D-I champs from Pinkerton in Derry early the next day, the Lady Lancers trailed 7-4 at halftime and then 11-6 with 15 minutes left in the match. Slater called timeout and had a heart-to-heart chat with his girls, and they responded beautifully by netting four of the last five goals scored. However, their comeback effort fell just short.

"Our intensity level was kind of a rollercoaster ride today," said Slater. "We have to have consistent intensity the whole way. But it's nice to have a 12-10 game with the defending champs."

Lambert finished with two goals and four

assists, Bell helped to pace the Londonderry offense with three goals and two assists - having a hand in every one of her first half - and Holland scored three shots. Lewis was good for two goals of her own, and keeper Kewley made five saves.

The Lady Lancers began this week's play on Monday with a 15-5 loss at

the hands of the 2014 Division I runner-up Souhegan High Lady Sabers from Amherst at LHS.

The now 3-3 locals hung with undefeated Souhegan in the first half and trailed by just three goals (6-3) at halftime. But they were outscored by a massive 9-2 tally in the second half as the 7-0 Lady Sabers rolled.



Lady Lancers' senior standout Sarah Bell rushes the ball up the field against an intense Pinkerton defense during the LHS squad's slim road loss to the Lady Astros last Saturday. Photo by Chris Paul

Beeman Trophy Remains at Pinkerton Academy

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Pinkerton Academy will retain the Beeman Trophy for another year after enjoying success in its head-to-head spring varsity sports contests with the squads from Londonderry High School.

The academy won the trophy back from Londonderry during the spring 2014 games last year, and the Derry school now maintains possession of it after collecting a 5-2 Beeman games' lead with only boys' tennis and girls' tennis matches to be played on May 20.

Pinkerton and Londonderry got the 2015 Beeman games going Tuesday, April 21, when the

boys' and girls' track and field squads met up in Derry. The Pinkerton boys and Londonderry girls won their respective competitions, giving their schools a split in the first two Beeman events.

Then Saturday, April 25 - again in Derry - Pinkerton teams claimed baseball, girls' lacrosse, boys' volleyball, and boys' lacrosse wins while Londonderry only managed a victory in softball.

The Beeman Trophy games - so named in honor of Pinkerton graduate and former LHS teacher and coach Mike Beeman - began in the early 1990s as an extension of the Mack Plaque games between the two schools.

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Lancer Laxmen Take on D-I Powers and Taste Defeat

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

During a 72-hour period late last week, first-year coach Sean LeBlanc and his Londonderry High boys' lacrosse team took on two of the biggest challenges they're likely to face during the 2015 season. And in both cases

LeBlanc and his Lancers saw decisions slip into the loss column.

The young warriors took on the two teams that seem to face off against one another in nearly every Division I championship battle - the Bishop Guertin Cardinals of Nashua and the rival Pinkerton Academy As-

tros - between Thursday and Saturday of last week and went from grasping a 2-1 record to looking at a mark that had slipped to 2-3.

After dropping a 14-5 decision to the defending champs from Guertin in Nashua April 23, the Lancers found themselves in a Beeman Tro-

phy battle with the 2014 Division I runner-up Astros on their home field in Derry on Saturday, April 25.

The 4-1 Astros won the first three quarters - leading 4-1 after one period, 7-3 at halftime, and then 11-3 after three stanzas - before Londonderry kicked its game into a higher, comeback gear and outscored its host by a 3-1 tally during the final period. But a full comeback wasn't to be in the 12-6 contest.

Astros' goalie Nick Richard finished the much-anticipated match with 14 saves, but the Lancers received four goals from Sean Snyder, single tallies from Dave Wiedenfeld and Lewis Carroll, and one assist from Shayne Holland.

Londonderry keeper Chris Rowan contributed 10 saves to the effort.



Londonderry High lacrosse stalwart Dave Wiedenfeld attempts a jump-shot during his team's loss to the Pinkerton Astros in Beeman Trophy play in Derry last weekend. Photo by Chris Paul

LHS Boy Spikers Keep on Seeking Their First Win

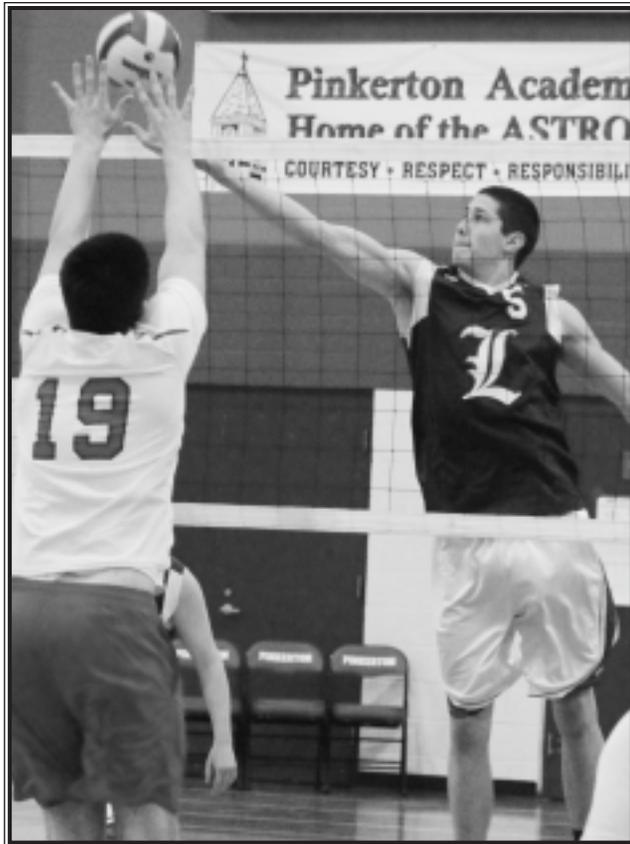
CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High boys' volleyball squad continued the hunt for its first victory of the still-young 2015 season recently with a spirited but ultimately unsuccessful 3-1 match loss to the rival Pinkerton Academy Astros in Beeman Trophy play in Derry last Saturday, April 25.

Second-year coach John Vaughn's 0-3 LHS guys dropped decisions of 25-17 and 25-16 in games one and two before digging down deep and battling out a 25-23 win in the third contest to keep their hopes alive.

But Pinkerton, which moved to 2-4 with the match victory, decided the matter by taking game four by a 25-15 tally.

The Lancer males then saw their season record slip to 0-4 this past Monday afternoon with a 3-1 loss to the visiting Bishop Guertin Cardinals, who



Londonderry High senior volleyball player Cody Ball tips the ball over the net during his team's 3-1 loss to Pinkerton in Derry last weekend.

Photo by Chris Paul

advanced their season mark to a modest 3-4 with their third straight victory. The Lancers battled, but ended up falling.

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LHS Baseball Bookends Losses Around Concord Victory

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The defending Division I champion Londonderry High baseball squad has had an up-and-down start to its 2015 season after losing quite a few standout players to graduation last spring.

And veteran Lancer coach Brent Demas saw his team wrap losses to Bishop Guertin and Pinkerton Academy around a slim win over Concord last week as its record settled in at 3-3.

In its 4-3 loss to the Bishop Guertin Cardinals in Nashua Wednesday, April 22, the Londonderry crew was stung hard by one poor inning.

Guertin plated all of its runs in the bottom half of the third inning, and the Lancers battled back for two runs in the top of the fifth and one more in the top of the seventh in just falling short of a full comeback.

“Geoff Kayo threw a strong game today but came up short as we were sunk by one bad inning,” said Demas. “On a day when neither team hit the ball well, Bishop Guertin took advantage of their opportunities to take the game.”

Londonderry finished with just a handful of hits,

with Jimmy Zimolka driving in two runs, Kayo smacking in one, and hot-hitting Brody Dupuis lacing a long double in a losing effort.

But the Lancers were shown could just as easily go their way last Friday, April 24, when they squeaked out a 6-5 game against the visiting Concord High Crimson Tide in a back-and-forth contest.

The hosts led 3-0 after three innings had been completed, but the Tide answered with three runs in the top of the fourth to knot the score at 3-3.

LHS reclaimed the lead at 4-3 with one run in the bottom of that frame, but Concord claimed its first lead of the day in the top of the fifth when it scored twice more.

The Lancers overcame their 5-4 deficit by scoring twice themselves in the bottom of the fifth, and 6-5 was right where the score would remain.

“Still plenty to work on, but this group is becoming more and more focused at this early stage of the season,” said Demas after the victory.

The victors slapped out 11 hits, with Dupuis claiming three and Mike Ryan, Jonny Meskell, and Cam Fennell each smacking two.

“Nick Musto got the

(pitching) start and threw very well, working around some big errors along the way to keep us in the game,” said Demas. “He kept his composure until he handed the ball off to Matt Ross. The bullpen, led by Ross and closed out by Colby Joncas, did a great job of keeping the boys in it and closing the door at the end.”

But exactly one week after defeating the rival Astros by a 3-0 tally in Londonderry, the Lancers ended up on the losing end of a 5-2 decision to that same opponent in Derry last Saturday, April 25.

The good news for Demas’ dudes in that defeat came in the form of some strong pitching work from ace Ryan, who held Pinkerton scoreless until the fourth inning and made the host work for all it claimed.

But after notching a 1-0 lead in the top of the second, thanks to a Dupuis RBI single, the Lancers watched Pinkerton plate one run on two hits in the bottom of the fourth, three runs on four safeties in the latter half of the fifth, and one additional marker in the bottom of the sixth to notch a 5-1 lead.

The Londonderry offense scuffled and struggled in an attempt to col-

lect a clutch hit along the way, slicing the PA lead down to 5-2 and getting the potential tying run to the plate in the top of the seventh inning. But 5-2 was as close as Londonderry would get in this one, and the final stats showed the LHS crew frustratingly stranding some 10 men on base.

“We knocked on the door all day, looking for that big hit that we needed. But we never got it. But we’ll be okay,” said Demas.

The Lancers got nine hits in the losing effort, with Ryan rapping three in his own support and Dupuis smacking two.

The team tallied another loss Monday, April 27, when they fell to the host Exeter High Blue Hawks by a 9-3 count. That dipped the LHS squad’s season record below the .500 mark to 3-4.



LHS Lancer Jonny Meskell slides into third base with a triple during his squad’s tough loss to the rival Pinkerton Academy Astros in Derry last weekend. Photo by Chris Paul

LHS Boys’ Tennis Team Starts Break with an 0-5 Record

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Coach Janice Norwesh’s Londonderry High boys’ tennis team stepped into a lengthy break last week after suffering its fifth loss in five 2015 matches.

The Lancers, who are in a rebuilding mode this spring, played host to the Alvirne High Broncos from Hudson Wednesday,

April 22, and were blanked by that tough opponent in a 9-0 match.

The locals were missing several of their stronger players who were away, and a whipping wind didn’t make anything easy on anybody on the courts.

“We had some very close competitive matches, especially with the second-time pairing of

Cam Letalien and Sean Enright, who just missed with a great first doubles match in just falling 7-9,” said Norwesh.

Newcomer Casey Tardif stepped into the Lancers’ fifth singles slot and just fell short in a 6-8 decision.

Neither the LHS boys nor coach Tom Meighan’s Lancer girl racketeers will play again until May 5.

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LHS Tracksters Tally a Split at Beeman Trophy Meet



Londonderry High senior track star Natalie Howes - shown running a relay against Pinkerton - set a new javelin record at the Nashua North Invitational last weekend.

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High girls' outdoor track and field team claimed a slim victory but the Lancer guy tracksters were defeated soundly when both LHS squads went up against the Pinkerton Academy contingents in spring Beeman Trophy action in Derry Tuesday, April 21.

The Lady Lancers were three points better than the host Lady Astros in a 69-66 decision. But the young Lancer men were downed by the defending Division I champion Pinkerton males in an 84-42 thumping that afternoon.

GIRLS

Yorgelis Ortiz and Lexy Freire each won multiple events for the victorious Lady Lancers, with junior Ortiz proving un-



LHS senior track standout Starlin Ortiz won the high jump during his team's meet at Pinkerton last week. Photo by Chris Pantazis

beatable in the 200-meter dash (time of 26.63 seconds), the high jump (5 feet, 2 inches), and the long jump (15' 4 1/2"). Freire was the victor in the 100-meter hurdles (17.67) and 300 hurdles (53.23).

Other wins were registered by Bella Ziolek in the 400 dash (1 minute, 06.68 seconds), Courtney

Guay in the 800-meter run (2:32.54), and Natalie Howes in the pole vault (10'6"), which Londonderry managed to sweep.

The Lady Lancers also claimed all of the points to be had in the 4x100 relay (51.89) and the 4x400 relay (4:26.99).

BOYS

The Lancer guys' good news on the rather frustrating day was turned in by senior star Starlin Ortiz, who proved unbeatable in the 200 (23.38) and the high jump (6'4").

Other Londonderry wins were claimed by Derek Davies in the triple jump (38'7"), Kyle Foden in the shot put (45' 3/4"), and the squad's 4x400 relay quartet (3:36.66).

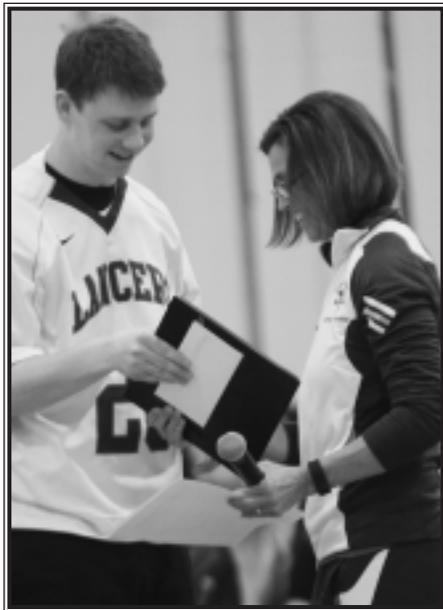
Both squads then made the trip to Nashua North High School to take

part in the North Invitational Saturday, April 25. And both LHS males and females made news there.

Lady Lancers' senior star Howes established a new record in the javelin (132'1") in bagging first in that event, and she also won the pole vault (9').

Yorgelis Ortiz was victorious in the 100 dash (12.79) and the long jump (16' 8 1/2"), and Londonderry also had second places come from Jordan Dufresne in the pole vault and the 4x100 relay quartet.

In the boys' competition, Starlin Ortiz proved victorious in the high jump (6'8") and the long jump (21'1"), and Eric Fairweather collected third place in the high jump while the LHS 4x400 team also took a third.



Shows of Strength

Londonderry High senior trainer Michelle Hart-Miller presented seniors Matt Rimol, left, and Eric Fairweather with this year's Strength and Conditioning Awards during last week's spring pep rally at the high school.

Photos by Chris Paul

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Students Learn About Science and Technology



As part of North School's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Week, students read "Castles, Caves, and Honeycombs," then used engineering principles to build animal homes out of toothpicks and gumdrops, above. At right, students read "How Big Is a Foot" and measured the gym hallway with different foot sizes.

Photos by Chris Paul

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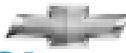
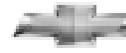
Dr. Mehdi has degrees from UCLA, University of Alabama, and Tufts Dental School, where he teaches part-time. We are happy to have such a qualified dentist join our team and are excited to provide care at this specialty level.

Dr. Mehdi Karimipour
Dr. Jan Krefting
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Mr. LHS Crowned



This year's winner of the Mr. LHS Contest is Jeff Baroody. He received his crown at the ninth annual Mr. LHS event April 23. *Photos by Chris Paul*

Ten Londonderry High School seniors competed for the Mr. LHS Crown on Thursday evening, April 23, sponsored each year by the Lancer Spirit newspaper. Among the contestants, above left and clockwise, Chris Monks shows off his yo-yo talent; Johnny Deschamps performs a drum solo; Teddy Tharlington does a patriotic dance; Dennis Bishop cheers for the crowd; and Aidan McCaffrey, left, and Marcus Wright dance a duet.



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AROUND TOWN

New Policy for Around Town: This section is meant to be used to announce free events to the communities. If your group or non-profit is receiving money for what they are publicizing, there will be a charge of \$30.00/week per paper. All Around Town/Calendar Items will be held to 100 words maximum; anything over will incur a charge of \$30.00/week for up to another 50 words. All free announcements in the Around Town/Calendar section can run a maximum of 3 weeks. Deadline for submissions is Monday at 5 p.m. **Additionally:** We will run the full versions of any calendar items online free of charge at www.nutpub.net. Please send items to calendar@nutpub.net.

Lions' Yard Sale

The Londonderry Lions Club Yard Sale is Saturday, May 16, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lions Hall on Mammoth Road (Route 128). Donations of goods can be made starting Friday, May 2 through Friday, May 15 at the Londonderry Lions Shelter. No large kitchen appliances, couches, skis, air conditioners, computers or TVs can be accepted. People may sell their own items by renting spaces. Call Tom at 548-5011 for details. All proceeds from donated goods and rented spaces benefit Londonderry Lions' local charities, including eye care.

Car Wash

First Parish Congregational Church, UCC hosts a car wash Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the BP Gas Station, 133 East Broadway, Derry at the rotary. Donations are accepted, with all proceeds going toward supporting the ministries of First Parish. For more information, call 434-0628 or email officemgr@fpc-ucc.org.

Plant Sale

The Derry Garden Club holds its annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 16, rain or shine at the Masonic Temple on East Broadway (Route 102), next to the Derry Public Library in Derry from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The club will be sending diggers to homes to gather perennials for the sale. Anyone with areas to be thinned

or dug up may call Wanda at 434-6681. The club is a member of the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs and the National Garden Clubs.

Cakeless Bake Sale

Beginning May 1, the Friends of the Londonderry Leach Library will hold its eighth annual Cakeless Bake Sale fundraiser. All money raised will sponsor library programs and services. The Friends will be asking for a donation, but not a cake or cookies. Figure out how much you would spend between baking and buying, and send a donation for that amount to support the Library. Donations should be made out to "Friends of Londonderry Leach Library" and mailed to Friends of Leach Library, 276 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH 03053, or placed in the box at the library. Donations are tax deductible.

Senior Center Art

Art classes are scheduled at the Londonderry Senior Center, 535 Mammoth Road in Londonderry. Pre-registration is required, with payment at sign-up. Classes include: ceramics Mondays, 12:30 to 2 p.m.; jewelry making Thursdays, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.; decorative metal art Friday, May 8, 12:30 to 2 p.m.; Paint Afternoon Thursday, May 14, 12:30 to 2 p.m.; wooden crafts Friday, May 15, 12:30 to 2 p.m.; nature crafts Thursday, May 28, 12:30 to 2 p.m.; and "Build Your Own

Plant Press" Friday, May 29, 12:30 to 2 p.m. For most classes, no experience is required. For details, call 432-8554 or visit www.londonderryNH.org/Pages/LondonderryNH_Senior/index.

Harmonica Saints

On Thursday, May 14, at 7 p.m., the Leach Library will host a free evening of songs by the Harmonica Saints in the lower-level meeting room. Based at the Nashua Senior Center, the 12-member group has been playing together for 10 years, and features harmonica players, vocalists and musicians playing accordion, ukulele, and a carpenter's saw. Each musical piece includes a brief story or explanation. Audience participation is encouraged. Light refreshments will be served.

Wine Tasting, Auction

YMCA of Greater Londonderry holds its annual Wine Tasting and Auction from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 7, at the Executive Court, 1199 South Mammoth Road, Manchester. Cost is \$25 per ticket. For tickets, contact Sara McCarthy at 782-2803 or smccarthy@graniteymca.org, or visit: www.graniteymca.org.

Flower and Bake Sale

First Parish Congregational Church, UCC hosts a flower and homemade bake sale Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church, 47 East Derry Road, East Derry. For more informa-



Driver Gets Good News

A mother of two from Salem was the recipient of a newly refurbished 2009 Ford Fusion. The car was donated to the Good News Garage, which handed it over to Russ Hilliard and his crew at Tires Too in Londonderry to be reconditioned. After putting more than \$4,000 in parts and labor into the vehicle, the recipient was presented with the car last week by the staff at Tires Too. Good News Garage has awarded more than 4,000 reliable vehicles to New England needy families since 1996.

Photo by Samantha Paul

tion, call 434-0628 or email officemgr@fpc-ucc.org.

Art in Action

The annual Art in Action show returns Saturday, May 16, and Sunday, May 17, at Mack's Apples Farm Market, 230 Mammoth Road, Londonderry from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Twenty-five artists will demonstrate painting, fiber art, weaving, jewelry making, woodworking and clay gardening figures. Admission is free.

Animal Athletes

Come to the Leach Library on Monday, May 11, from 4 to 5 p.m. to discover the world of animal athletes. Live animals present may include a Wallaby, tree frog and Great Horned Owl. Advance registration is required and begins at 9 a.m. Monday, May 4. To register, call 432-1127 or come by the Children's Room.

Book Week Raffle

Starting Monday, May 4, through closing on Satur-

day, May 9, during Children's Book Week, for each book checked out of the Children's Room at the Leach Library that week, children will earn a raffle ticket for a chance to win a book bag. Stop by the display case in the Children's Room to see what the book bag looks like.

Beach Party

The Leach Library hosts a "Beach Party" on Monday, May 18, from 4 to 5 p.m., featuring stories of tide pools and play in the sand. All participants will leave with a monkey beach ball. Advance registration is required and begins at 9 a.m. Monday, May 11. To register, call 432-1127 or come by the Children's Room.

Children's Programs

The Children's Room at the Leach Library will offer the following programs as part of Spring Session 2: Craft Time; Shake, Move & Read; and Toddler Time. Spring Session 2 will run

May 6 through May 28. Advance registration is required.

Swan Trivia

The Leach Library Children's Room will host a swan trivia contest throughout the month of May. Participants are welcome to stop by and try their hand at answering a question about swans. All the correct answers will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a hand-painted stone featuring a mother swan and her babies, created by local artist Tom Abruzese.

Benefit Yard Sale

RE/MAX 1st Choice holds its 16th annual yard sale in front of Crossroads Mall at the intersection of Route 102 and Mammoth Road on Saturday, May 2, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a rain date of Sunday, May 3. Items to be donated may be stored on site, courtesy of Fortin Modular Storage, which has donated a storage trailer. No clothing, large appliances, computer parts or televisions are accepted. Proceeds from the Yard Sale go to local charities. For further information, contact RE/MAX 1st Choice at 425-2400 Mondays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Toy Swap and Sale

Londonderry Women's Club's 13th annual Toy

continued on page 21

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Around Town

Continued from page 20
Swap and Sale takes place from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 16, at the Matthew Thornton School gym. It is a consignment sale, with the price set by the owner, who receives two-thirds of the sale price. The Londonderry Women's Club keeps one-third. Proceeds will benefit Moore Mart, which sends supplies

to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Registration forms are at Leach Library. Children's items in good condition may be sold, including bassinets, strollers, sporting goods, Halloween costumes, games, books and wooden puzzles. Stuffed animals, cribs, car seats and clothing cannot be accepted.

Miss New Hampshire

The Miss New Hamp-

shire Scholarship Competition takes place April 30 through May 2 at the Stockbridge Theatre at Pinkerton Academy, Derry. The final competition is May 2. To purchase tickets, call the Miss New Hampshire office at 437-9027.

Lions' Concert

The Londonderry Lions Club Valentine's Day Concert, cancelled because of snow, is rescheduled to Sat-

urday, May 9, from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Lions Hall, Mammoth Road. Bobby and the Sharptones will play classic rock and roll from the '50s through '80s. The concert benefits Londonderry High School scholarships, local sight and hearing, and Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. Tickets purchased for the February concert will be accepted. Cost is \$20 per person, \$35 per couple, and includes popcorn, chips,

pastries and coffee. Soda and water can be purchased. Alcoholic beverages can be brought. For tickets, call Jerry at 434-5307.

4-H Fundraiser

The National 4-H Council has launched its spring 2015 4-H Paper Clover Campaign in partnership with Tractor Supply Company. The campaign takes place now through Sunday, May 3. Shoppers at the Derry,

Brentwood, and Plaistow stores can support 4-H in Rockingham County by purchasing paper clovers for \$1 or more at checkout. More information about 4-H in Rockingham County is available at bit.ly/4HRockCty or 679-5616.

Free Children's Clothing

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Continued on page 22

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YARD SALE

Multi-Family Yard Sale Sat. May 2nd, 8am-2pm 200 Stage Rd., Hampstead Infant toys, clothes, and games; electronics, decor., furniture, CDs, books, sports equip.

Yard Sale May 3rd 9am-2pm 4 Crabapple Lane Londonderry. Baby items, Furniture & Home Decor

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TOWN OF LONDONDERRY PLANNING BOARD

The Londonderry Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Moose Hill Council Chambers, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH to consider the following:

A. Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments - Public Hearing:

The Town of Londonderry seeks to amend the zoning ordinance to more fully comply with NH RSA 674:58-61, Workforce Housing; provide for enhanced housing opportunities throughout Town; amend Conditional Use Permit criteria to promote project feasibility; and to carry out other associated administrative changes consistent with the 2013 Master Plan goals, **as updated by the Planning Board on April 8, 2015**. The following sections (inclusive of subsections) are proposed to be amended:

- Table of Contents
- 1.3.3 Phasing of Developments
- 2.2 Use Table
- 2.3.1 Agricultural-Residential District
- 2.3.3 Inclusionary Housing
- 2.3.4 Retention of Housing Affordability
- 2.4.5 General Standards for MUC Sub-district
- 3.4.1 Backlot Development
- 3.6 Elderly Housing
- 3.6.5 Conditional Use Permits
- 3.7 Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes
- 3.10.10 Minimum Parking and Loading Required

(The full text of the proposed can be found on the Town's web page, and is available for viewing in the Town Clerk's Office, Planning and Economic Development Department, and Leach Library during regular business hours.)

B. Hillside Senior Housing (Owner and Applicant), Map 10 Lot 92 - Public Hearing to consider the applicant's request to rezone Lot 92 from Agricultural-Residential (AR-I) to Multi-Family Residential (R-III) at 105 Hillside Avenue.

Around Town

Continued from page 21

need. Call Liz at 247-8654 to arrange a pick-up time to receive clothing. Donations of gently used children's clothing are accepted. Drop-off locations are St. Mark's Church in Londonderry and St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Derry during office hours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and at 5 Isabella Drive in Londonderry.

Eckankar Worship

An Eckankar Worship Service is offered Sunday, May 10, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and continuing the second Sunday of each month at the Holiday Inn, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester. For more information, call 800-713-8944 or visit www.eckankar-nh.org.

HU Chant

A free Community HU Chant is offered Thursday, May 21, at 7:30 p.m. and continuing on the third Thursday of each month at the Holiday Inn, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester. For more information, call 800-713-8944 or visit www.eckankar-nh.org.

Londonderry Police Log

Selections from the Londonderry Police Logs

Monday, April 20

7:31 a.m. On Saturday night or Sunday, construction trailer broken into at Global, Hampton Drive.

1:42 p.m. Caller reported clothing missing from Kitt Lane home over the past week.

3:10 p.m. Caller on South Road reported finding

several hypodermic needles on side of road.

3:12 p.m. Report of subjects burning tires on Pillsbury Road, close to Hardy Road.

5:18 p.m. Lucia Osborne, 23, Hall Street, Manchester turned self in on warrant for Theft: All Other. Bail set at \$500 personal recog-

nizance, with Derry Circuit Court date of June 23.

7:30 p.m. Rachel Gail Lavoie, 22, Roby Road, New Boston turned herself in on warrant for Endangering Welfare of Child/Incompetent. Bail set at \$2,000 personal recognizance, with Derry Circuit Court date of June

23.

Thursday, April 23

3:02 a.m. Domestic disturbance call on South Road. Caitlin Palmer, 35, South Road, Londonderry arrested for Suspended Registration (operating – misdemeanor) and Driving After Revocation or Suspension. Bail set at \$1,500 personal recognizance with Derry Circuit Court date of May 12. Christopher L. Cosma, 36, Belmont Street, Manchester arrested for Criminal

Mischief (vandalism) and Domestic Violence Simple Assault. Bail set at \$1,500 personal recognizance, with Derry Circuit Court date of June 30.

1:47 p.m. Wendy Joseph, 22, Chester Lane, Walworth, Mass., arrested for Receiving Stolen Property and two counts of Conspiracy to Commit. Bail set at \$5,000 cash, with Derry Circuit Court date of May 5.

6:55 p.m. Caller reports cell phone taken from

bathroom in McDonald's. Nashua Road.

9:46 p.m. Brian David Hamilton, Londonderry Road, Windham served warrant for two counts of Theft/Shoplifting. Bail set at \$3,000 personal recognizance with Derry Circuit Court date of June 16.

Saturday, April 25

1:51 p.m. Criminal mischief on Constitution Drive.

Sunday, April 26

3:02 p.m. Gunshots heard in area of Colonial Drive.

Assistants

Continued from page 1

density per student, is for the entire day, not just for the one- and two-hour period that we had for dedicated aides," Young said. "Please note that these numbers do not include any Special Education assistants that may be in the classroom.

Greenberg told the Board and parents at last week's meeting that the District has looked at the instructional model, refined response to intervention, improved its ability to identify at-risk students and maintained a good student to teacher ratio.

"All this led to the recommendation to reduce instructional assistants at first and second grade, and some at third grade," he said, noting the District has looked at the sustainability both short and long term, and has considered potential financial issues in the future. "This is the best way to maintain the quality of education and sustain it long term."

Greenberg said the new model is being piloted in classes at South Elementary School and recommended a follow-up meeting to discuss the new structure.

Concerned parents packed the meeting to express their support for increasing instructional assistant hours, most arguing the additional adult support in first and second grade classrooms is vital to ensuring all children's needs are met and

the quality of education children receive in Londonderry is maintained.

Many parents expressed concern that although enrollment has declined, class sizes have remained stable and a variety of new challenges teachers must meet makes teaching assistants' support vital to ensuring children aren't sitting idle or slipping through the cracks.

"Individual classroom sizes are either staying stagnant or on the rise due to retiring teachers and their positions not being backfilled. This, combined with the increased rigor of the Common Core Curriculum and the diverse array of learning styles and capabilities in each classroom, unequivocally sets up students and teachers with an unfair disadvantage," said Kris Sloper, who has a daughter in third grade and another daughter who is to enter first grade next year. "Here's the good news: thankfully, our taxpayers are willing to provide our students with the funding necessary to provide them with the best resources available. Why this wouldn't pass is beyond me."

About a dozen current and former students also spoke in favor of maintaining teaching assistant hours.

Former student Hannah Johnson, who is now pursuing a career in education, wrote a letter to the Board saying she would be worried about handling a large classroom full of kids without a

teaching assistant.

"Looking back to my years in the Londonderry School District, I have many fond memories of assistant teachers in my classes," she wrote. "I remember getting a lot of one-on-one attention from them, and I have no doubt I flourished because of that attention."

Specifically, Johnson said she remembers her third grade teacher giving her special attention in writing, which helped her to excel and played a role in her desire to become a teacher herself.

"I would never have had that opportunity if the teaching assistants wouldn't have been there to work with the other students in the classroom," she said.

Luc Lafond, a sixth grader, told the Board he started kindergarten in Manchester, but he was so bored in school, even after moving up to first grade, that he became a disruption.

Lafond's parents moved to Londonderry so he would be challenged and have access to the District's gifted program.

"Although I had completed first grade in Manchester, everyone agreed I should do it again in Londonderry. Mrs. Roberts, the instructional assistant in my class, was really helpful with keeping me on track when I completed my school work early and got bored," said. "It was even more crucial in second grade because Mrs. Dolphin had a back injury and couldn't run around and help all the

students. Therefore, the instructional assistant, Mrs. Trainer, hustled around the room, gave me extra assignments to do, and sometimes had me run errands when my work was done. Thanks to my first and second grade assistants, I didn't get in much trouble and I didn't hate school."

Now an honor roll student in Advanced Reading and AP Math, Lafond said he can't help wonder how things would have turned out for him had there not been instructional assistants in his first and second grade classrooms to keep him from getting bored and into trouble.

"Do you think I would have liked school? Do you think I would've done as well? I don't think so," he said. "What happens in the first couple grades can affect somebody's whole academic career."

In addition to the concern over ensuring all students receive the one-on-one attention they need to establish a strong foundation at the elementary level, parents expressed confusion over why the Board would vote against spending the additional funding for instructional assistants, or return the money to the taxpayers.

"My feeling is once it has been voted on, we have a moral obligation to honor that vote," said Dan Tamburello. "We have a process, we went through that process, and (the voters) said this is what they want to do. And it's not a lot of money in the grand scheme of things. But I think pound for

pound you get more than your dollar for that."

Another parent noted the amount of money proposed for the teaching assistants is less than 1 percent of the District's \$67 million operating budget.

Sloper presented the Board with a formal petition, signed by 480 Londonderry residents, in favor of spending the \$240,000 added to the budget for the teaching assistants as intended.

"While some may argue that not all of the 2,285 voters agree with keeping our instructional assistants, I think it's fair to say that between the clear outcome of the Deliberative Session, the March 10 vote, resident emails, letters, phone calls, articles (in the newspaper) and our petition, the majority of this community wants the approved funding allocated to keeping assistants in our primary classrooms," she said. "While we greatly respect your positions and experience, we request that you value ours as well. The folks supporting this plan are

well educated, doctors, educators, engineers and local business owners, parents of children that will be directly affected by this decision, as well as parents whose children have already had the benefit of these resources and want the same for others."

Sloper noted Young described the quorum changing the budget at Deliberative session as "a historic event."

"A historic event. What a strong and clear message this community has sent. What is that message?" she asked. "We, the people of Londonderry, are expecting you, who represent us, to adhere to our collective wish of keeping instructional assistants in our primary classrooms and increase their time to three hours per day. The residents have approved the tax increase to sustain the funding necessary to attain this goal."

The School Board made no decision and tentatively plans to discuss the matter further at its next meeting.



TOWN OF LONDONDERRY LEGAL NOTICE

The Londonderry Town Council will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on the following item:

- 1.) **Ordinance #2015-03** - An Amendment to the Municipal Code Title IV, Chapter V, Solid Waste Recycling

The Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Londonderry Town Hall, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH 03053. A copy of the proposed amendment may be viewed at the Town Manager's office during regular business hours and online at www.londonderrynh.org.

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