

Londonderry Times

January 26, 2017 ♦ Volume 18 – Issue 4

A FREE Weekly Publication



Having a Ball

Children who chose to brave the storm on Monday afternoon were treated to a show by "Jenny the Juggler" at the Leach Library. The event was made possible by the "Friends of the Leach Library." See more photos on page 10.

Photo by Chris Paul

Series of Area Snow Storms Generate Few Problems

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

While communities in other parts of the country continue to dig out from massive storms, Londonderry the Tuesday Jan. 17, snowstorm with relatively few issues.

Det. Chris Olson wrote from the Londonderry Police Department, "Overall, the storm did not cause any major problems for us. We had the typical vehicle-off-the-road call throughout the storm, but not many of them resulted in an acci-

dent. We had a large tree come down that needed to be cut up by the town. We had a detail officer stand by for approximately two hours while that went on."

Olson further wrote, "We did have to shut

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Area Towns Mull Impact of All-Vet Tax Credit Law

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

A new law enabling towns to extend the veterans' tax credit to all veterans, whether from wartime or peace, has some area officials wondering about the impact on other taxpayers, while others say the service is long overdue for those who served.

RSA 72:28 currently allows the standard deduction of up to \$500 for veterans who served in the following wars or conflicts: Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, Boxer Rebellion, World Wars I and II, Korean and Vietnam conflicts,

Persian Gulf War and "any other war or armed conflict that has occurred since May 8, 1975, in which the resident earned an Armed Forces expeditionary medal or Theater of Operations service medal."

A new law, RSA 72:28b, was signed into law by former Gov. Maggie Hassan. The law's primary sponsor was outgoing State Rep. Fred Rice of Hampton, who wrote in a press release, "The newly enacted law (RSA 72:28b) is exactly the same as the old one, but without the time periods."

Rice explained, "Individuals can volunteer to

enter the military, but they have little or no say as to where or when they will actually serve. All veterans should all be recognized for their service, and not be deprived of a benefit because of something they had no control over."

The legislation is "enabling legislation," meaning that each municipality in the state must formally adopt the All Veterans Tax Credit by a vote of town meeting or equivalent in order for it to take affect in that town, Rice further wrote.

According to Rice, the time periods that will be

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School District Holding Its Own in Second Quarter

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry is holding its own in the second financial quarter of the fiscal year.

Business Manager Peter Curro gave an update on the current budget in the Jan. 17 School Board meeting. While the budget is tight, Curro reassured the board and television audience that, barring unusual circumstances, the district should make it to June 30.

Curro wrote in a memo that the district's general fund is running "very close" to the approved budget for 2016-17.

He and Superinten-

dent Nate Greenberg have ordered a "freeze" on all non-essential purchases. Curro wrote, "If we make it through the rest of the fiscal year, especially the winter months, without any unplanned events, we should be able to purchase all budgeted and planned supplies and equipment."

The "unplanned events" include the mercurial winter weather and the prospect of children moving into the district who need special education services, especially out-of-district placements. The out-of-district placements are expected to overrun the budgeted costs by up to \$350,000. But the district

has a \$150,000 buffer for out-of-district placements that will be available till the end of the year, he added.

Pupil Services, which includes Special Education, 504 plans, the homeless students under the McKinney-Vento Act and English as a Second Language, is expected to be

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Chamber Holds Business And Government Reception



New Hampshire State Representative Brian Chirichello of Derry, left, talks with Pinkerton Academy Headmaster Griffin Morse during the 2017 Greater Derry Londonderry Chamber of Commerce's Business and Government Reception.

Courtesy photos by Will Stewart

HUNTER MCGEE
LONDONDERRY TIMES

With the legislative session beginning in Concord, community business members met and mingled with legislators Friday during the 2017

Greater Derry Londonderry Chamber of Commerce's Business and Government Reception.

As dozens attended, the reception was held in the main hall of the Searles School and Chapel.

"I'm hoping that all of

you in the business community are using this opportunity to chat with our elected officials here and tell them what's on your mind," Chamber President Will Stewart said to those attending the reception. He urged them to tell legislators about the issues facing their organization, "because these are the folks here in this room that can do something about it.

"This is really again the purpose why we have these type of events to bring the business community and elected officials together, because when we are in alignment we all win," Stewart said.

Some of the legislators on hand for the event included Sen. Regina Birdsell, of Derry; Rep. David Bates, of Windham; Rep. Jess Edwards, of Auburn; Rep. Joseph Guthrie, of Hampstead; Rep. John O'Connor, of Derry; and

Rep. Doug Thomas, of Londonderry.

State Sen. Chuck Morse, senate president, spoke on the legislative session and the cooperation between legislators and new Gov. Chris Sununu.

"It's exciting times in New Hampshire right now," Morse said. "The governor is energetic; he wants to make change. He certainly is looking at things in a different fashion. I think federally it's going to be the same way."

Although they don't always agree, Morse said legislators are cooperating and putting partisan politics aside.

He added, "I can tell you right now that we've been working over the holidays with the governor and we are getting ready to produce a budget in a month."

Legislators are also working on ways to get government "out of the way," Morse said.

"That's the problem with government they aren't getting out of your way," Morse said. "I think that's what we are looking now in New Hampshire is how can we get out of



Elizabeth LaRocca, Community Relations Specialist with Eversource Energy, converses with Executive Tax Services owner David LaRoche.

your way."

Morse said legislators want to begin examining every rule in New Hampshire and "see how it affects the economy and people."

Derry Medical Center CEO Tom Buchanan, who also spoke at the reception, addressed the need to simplify the healthcare system.

"We need to simplify things, and we just need stronger and clearer incentives," Buchanan said. "Things have just gotten too complicated. We have a health care system that is almost beyond words to

explain to people."

While it took a long time for the health care system to become so complicated, Buchanan said there are a number of opportunities to simplify it and make it better for New Hampshire residents.

"There's lots of opportunities to enhance the delivery system in the state and make it more affordable. It's not just about insurance it's also about affordability. We can't afford to sell products that none of our citizens can afford."

Daniela E. Verani, M.D., P.A.

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- PROVIDER ON CALL - COLON CANCER

Colon cancer is cancer of the large intestine (colon), the lower part of your digestive system. Rectal cancer is cancer of the last several inches of the colon. Together, they're often referred to as colorectal cancers. Most cases of colon cancer begin as small, non-cancerous (benign) clumps of cells called adenomatous polyps. Over time some of these polyps become colon cancers. Polyps may be small and produce few, if any, symptoms. For this reason, doctors recommend regular screening tests to help prevent colon cancer by identifying polyps before they become colon cancer.

Signs and symptoms of colon cancer include: a change in your bowel habits, including diarrhea or constipation or a change in the consistency of your stool for more than a couple of weeks; rectal bleeding or blood in your stool; persistent abdominal discomfort, such as cramps, gas or pain; a feeling that your bowel doesn't empty completely; weakness or fatigue; or unexplained weight loss.

Many people with colon cancer experience no symptoms in the early stages of the disease. When symptoms appear, they'll likely vary, depending on the cancer's size and location in your large intestine. It's not clear what causes colon cancer in most cases. Doctors know that colon cancer occurs when healthy cells in the colon become altered. Healthy cells grow and divide in an orderly way to keep your body functioning normally. But sometimes this growth gets out of control. Cells continue dividing even when new cells aren't needed. In the colon and rectum, this exaggerated growth may cause precancerous cells to form in the lining of your intestine. Over a long period of time, spanning up to several years, some of these areas of abnormal cells may become cancerous.

Among other tests to diagnose colon cancer a colonoscopy has gotten the most attention in recent years. There are also blood test, although, there is not blood test to confirm colon cancer. A barium enema allows doctors to create a clear silhouette of your rectum, colon and sometimes a small portion of your small intestine. It is important if you suspect that you have any issues to consult with your doctor to catch this early.

As a Family Practitioner for over 20 years in Southern New Hampshire, I have treated new borns to individuals in their Golden Years. My staff and I believe that prevention is the best cure. And we like to do it the old-fashioned way, by listening and caring for each patient as if they were our own family. At the same time, we do not ignore the innovations that are taking place in medicine and participate in the EPIC electronic medical records in conjunction with the Elliot Hospital.

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Storms

Continued from page 1

Route 28 down for about 15 minutes to allow a tow truck to pull a vehicle out of the woods on Route 28 north of Page Road. Overall though, nothing out of the ordinary."

According to logs, police responded to motor vehicle accidents at Mammoth Road and Nashua Road, Mammoth Road and Pillsbury Road, Rockingham Road and Page Road, Route 93 between exits 4 and 5, Gilcreast Road, Gilcreast

Road at Charleston, Moulton Road and Route 28/Commercial Lane.

Fire Chief Darren O'Brien also wrote in an e-mail, "To the best of my knowledge, the storm created no additional responses for the Fire/Rescue department. I received no reports of any power outages from our residents"

Londonderry emerged relatively unscathed from Monday night Jan. 24 nor'easter.

Battalion Chief Fred Heinrich of the Londonderry Fire Department said in a phone interview Tuesday that the department had only responded to two accidents on Monday, and both were minor. One person was transported to the hospital but

with minor injuries, Heinrich said. While police went to "a number of accidents," none appeared to be severe, according to Heinrich.

One of the town's problem spots is the "S" curve on Auburn Road, Heinrich said. But there were no serious incidents from that area, he said, adding, "Knock on wood."

Heinrich attributed the low incidence of serious accidents to the fact that drivers were well-warned. "There was enough advance notice and people were scared," he said.

In addition, Heinrich

said, the storm really hit Londonderry in the evening, after school buses were off the road and parents home from work.

The town also made out well in the area of power outages, according to Kaitlyn Woods, a spokesperson for Eversource. "I don't think Londonderry had any significant outages," she said in a phone interview Tuesday.

According to the Eversource "outage map," the only towns receiving significant outages were in the Laconia/Tilton and Keene/Jaffrey areas.

The utility has been keeping up its tree-trimming schedule and that helps, Woods said, observing that outages usually come from heavy winds and ice build-up.

In addition, she said, Eversource has invested in technology including what Woods called "smart switches." When an outage occurs this tech allows the company to identify where the breakdown is, isolate it, and reroute power to the affected area.

Londonderry schools were closed Tuesday, and evening activities cancelled.



A series of recent snow storms have made for some beautiful scenes on local streets. Photo by Chris Paul

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Editorial

How We Provide Community News

It has been Nutfield Publishing's duty and honor to provide our communities with the stories that matter every week.

It has been a privilege to be able to get the word out to the public at no cost to our readers, so that they may stay informed of the decisions being made on their behalf, and so that they may continue to be connected to their community.

Of course, this task does not come without a price. Between printing the papers, paying our writers, and a list of other business expenses, we certainly couldn't produce these publications each week without the help from our advertisers.

The local businesses you see in the margins of and below your weekly news stories are what help make this all possible. Without them, we wouldn't be able to keep you informed.

If you visit these places regularly already, or have first heard of them through one of our papers, please let these businesses know that their advertising is what brought you in. This helps to strengthen our relationship with local advertisers, and encourages them to continue to support your papers.

A year ago, we had to come to the difficult decision to make two of our publications subscription-based, while still providing several pick-up locations. The fees paid by our subscribers help to cover the cost of mailing, so all other expenses are picked up by - you

guessed it - our advertisers.

About a week ago, the office had received a troubling phone call that word had been getting out to local businesses that Nutfield Publishing was no longer taking advertising.

We can only imagine that this falsehood was being spread by a competitor, and we have been working to pick up the pieces. Another rumor in recent circulation is that your local newspaper is going out of business. While times are tough, and more and more businesses turn to online and social media marketing, let us assure you that we intend to do all we can to continue to provide you your hometown news.

While not easy, getting our publications out week after week continues to be a labor of love.

It has been our mission all these years to look out for the people of our communities, and thanks to the help of our advertisers, so far we have been able to compete this mission. If you happen to hear anyone say that we are no longer taking in ads, no matter the reason, please inform them otherwise, and remind them that we couldn't do this without their support.

Not unlike PBS, your community newspaper is made possible by contributions from local businesses, and of course, by readers like you.

So to all of our dedicated readers, thank you. And to our advertisers, old and new, thank you. We couldn't do this without you. Together, we can make a difference.

Letters

Do Not Trust Russia

To the Editor:

Does President Trump trust Communist Russia, but distrust our intelligence agencies? Will Trump stand up to Russia, an adversary of the US, a country that wants to spread its Communist totalitarianism to Europe, the Middle East and North America?

Trump might be hesitant to admit Russia hacked into Clinton's campaign because he does not want the public to think he won a tainted election. He won the election because of the ineptitude of Clinton's campaign staff, Clinton's private email server, and the desire for change by a large segment of the electorate in key states unhappy with Obama's policies. Trump should wholeheartedly support the Congressional investigations into the possible hacking by the Russians.

Trump wants to have good relations with Russia so we can work together to jointly solve some of the world's problems, which might be a positive move by the President, and it could make both countries more secure. However, we cannot completely trust Putin and Russia, and we always have to be wary of their motives and be ready to respond to their threatening and hostile actions.

Hopefully, Russia does not have compromising personal and financial information on Trump which could be used against us.

We must support President Trump, because his success is our success.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry, NH

January 7 Recycling At the Drop Off Center

To the Editor,
The Department of Public Works and Engi-

neering and the Solid Waste and Environment Committee wish to thank all who took advantage of the one-time opening of the Drop Off Center on January 7 to drop off excess recyclables after the holiday. A tally of 129 cars brought in a total of 138 cubic yards of paper and plastic.

Because this was Londonderry's first holiday season with the biweekly pickup program for recyclables, there was a concern whether residents would have difficulty handling the increased amount of recyclable material generated during this time. The Department decided to open the Drop Off Center for one day, weather permitting, and this proved to meet a public need.

Luck also played a part in that the weather cooperated; a significant snowfall leading up to or during the day would have hindered or even prevented this from happening. Based on the amount of activity that occurred, the Department of Public Works and Engineering is planning to offer this event again next year, weather permitting.

Thanks again for participating, and if you have any comments or questions regarding the curbside recycling program, please call the DPW at 432-1100, X137 or x193.

Paul Margolin
Solid Waste and Environment Committee

Vote Yes for Article 16

To the Editor:
Londonderry Trailways is asking you to consider voting "Yes" on Tuesday, March 14th for Warrant Article 16 to raise \$144,000 for the purchase and installation of a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) at the intersection

of Sanborn Road and the Route 28 (leading into North Elementary School). Much work for this project has already been done and paid for through donations to Londonderry Trailways including the engineering and design of the crossing to meet the requirements set forth by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. Secured funding from the passage of Warrant Article 16, will allow completion of the crossing as well as a section of paved Rail Trail into North Londonderry by 2017. The development of the Rail Trail has been a focus for Londonderry Trailways since 2010. We completed the first mile of trail in 2013 and have since completed a total of 3 miles of paved trail.

In December 2016, Londonderry Trailways received a \$75,000 matching grant from The Hunt Foundation. Since this is a matching grant, this money would be lost if we are not able to raise the additional funds to complete the project. Our total cost of construction for this phase of the Rail Trail is \$219,000. This is why we are requesting help from the voters, tax payers and users of the Londonderry Rail Trail.

In the last three years we have constructed and opened a new section of trail each year providing recreational usage for walkers, joggers, bike riders, wheelchairs and others. Our Board respects the expectations of the citizens of the town by keeping project costs down, while expecting timely and quality work on our projects. We thank you for your past support, and hope that you will continue that support with a "Yes" vote on Article 16 on Tuesday March 14th.

Bob Rimol
Londonderry NH

Londonderry Times

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New Vehicle, Mobile Apps On Food Service's Menu

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry school food service is holding its own, despite a well-publicized withdrawal of the high school from the Federal school lunch program.

Amanda Venezia, director of food service for Londonderry's five schools, presented her budget requests for 2018 and updated the School Board and Budget Committee on her program last month's school budget review.

Venezia's projected re-

venues are \$1,375,000, and her projected income is \$1,350,000. "It will be close," she told the board.

Venezia told the board she has seen a "significant decrease in revenues" this fall, as opposed to September, October and November of last year. She is down 90 meals a day, across the district. However, her Free and Reduced Lunch participation is 11.66 percent, up 7.9 percent over last year.

Her high school salad bar, which she promotes on Twitter and Instagram,

has a student and staff participation that is up 100 percent, she said. After a drop last year, her full-meal line is on the rise at the high school, she said. Students were taking more of the a la carte items, to avoid the mandatory fruit and vegetable. Now that the district is planning and serving its own high school meals, the kids are back at the table.

"It's ironic," board member Leitha Reilly said, "that participation in the salad bar is also up."

Venezia is looking at

increasing efficiency, particularly in the cafeteria lines, at the three elementary schools. "We are going to look at the space and configuration of the serving lines," she said. "We are polling parents about the changes." Many parents have told her it takes too long for their children to get through the serving line, she said.

She is also looking at an increase in school lunch prices, mandated by the Feds, at the four schools that still participate in the program. "I am anticipating 5 cents to 10 cents," Venezia said, adding, "If we wanted to bring it up to 25 cents, we wouldn't have to do it again for a couple of years."

Her Travel and Conferences line has increased by \$3,000, Repairs and Maintenance by \$15,000, and Leasing by \$10,000, chiefly due to the need for a van. The district van has rusted out and failed inspection, she said.

Business Manager Peter Curro said he and Venezia are looking to lease a van with some kind of refrigeration. "The last few

days of school, when it's warm, there is a possibility for spoilage," he told the board. They are looking at a three-to five-year lease.

Equipment requests for 2018 include a new stove-top at Londonderry Middle School, she said, noting, "We have no way to boil water." North School needs a new oven, and a software update is needed across the district. And the Middle School refrigerator is "not long for this world," she said.

Highlights of the past year include a Celebrity Chef visit at the high school, which was featured on WMUR TV and made a national school food service publication. Venezia's staff took over the filling of Thanksgiving baskets from the Town of Londonderry and will also be involved in Christmas baskets. They catered the Veterans Breakfast and Hall of Fame dinner, and she has spoken at conferences in her field.

Venezia would like to institute credit card processing at the high school, a mobile app for

parents and an adult "premium salad" meal across the district. "This is an untapped market," she said. Teachers at the elementary and middle schools have expressed interest in accessing the high school salad menu, and she's going to find a way for them to do it.

She'd also like to see a mobile food truck type of unit at LHS, which could sell healthy snacks in the lobby and then be wheeled to another part of the school to provide after-school nutrition for kids involved in activities. "Some of our students don't get home until 7 p.m.," she said, citing the wide range of after-school activities.

The elephant in Venezia's kitchens is the Healthy Hungry Kids Federal program, which has elapsed and will be reauthorized or replaced under the next administration. Board member Steve Young asked if the district were still under the regulations, and Venezia said it has an "ever-green clause" which keeps it in place until something else comes along.

Subsidy

Continued from page 1

eliminated under the new option are those that fall between "periods of conflict," such as from the end of WWII to the start of the Korean War, from the end of Korea to the start of Vietnam, and from the end of Vietnam to the invasion of Grenada.

Rice further explained, "Not everyone who was deployed was necessarily in combat, however. Only ten percent of those in uniform ever see combat, according to government statistics. Naval crews at sea, support troops at logistics installations or air bases, and administrative, legal and medical personnel are examples of those who may have served "in country" and are eligible for the current

tax credit, but were never in danger of enemy action."

Londonderry offers the standard deduction of \$500, plus \$2,000 to any veteran who is permanently and totally disabled as a result of their service.

Council Chair John Farrell said in a phone interview Thursday that the Council is waiting for more information from the state before taking any action on the new option.

Farrell explained, "We don't have a position on this at the moment. The state has passed down the information." While the new law isn't an unfunded mandate, it is an unfunded option, and Farrell said the Council wants to see how implementing the law will affect

Londonderry taxpayers before taking a stand.

Alfred Baldasaro, a Republican state rep from Londonderry and a retired Marine sergeant active in local, state and national veterans' issues, said he is cosponsor of a bill working its way through the Legislature that would modify Rice's bill, phasing the amount in over a three-year period "so the towns don't get hit all at once."

"We are going to try to fast-track the legislation, so cities and towns will be able to have it on the warrant next year," Baldasaro said.

Baldasaro is in favor of his town and others adopting Rice's amendment, noting, "All veterans should be treated the same."

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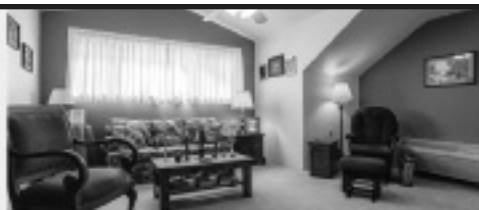


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Londonderry Trailways Receives \$75,000 Grant from Hunt Foundation

The Samuel P. Hunt Foundation of Manchester, New Hampshire has awarded Londonderry Trailways a \$75,000 challenge grant. The grant is designated for construction of a quarter-mile section of the rail trail in North Londonderry, which includes purchasing and installing a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) at the intersection of Route 28 and Sanborn Road. The Londonderry Rail Trail crosses Route 28 at that intersection – which is also the entrance to North Elementary School. The beacon is manually activated and will stop traffic in both directions to allow pedestrians to safely cross Route 28 while traffic is

stopped in all directions.

Last Spring Londonderry Trailways funded a traffic study, which resulted in NHDOT's determination that the intersection qualified for a PHB based on hourly traffic counts and safety implications for school children and trail users, including senior citizens accessing the trail from the Senior Center in North Londonderry.

Londonderry Trailways is working closely with the Town Department of Public Works to obtain design approval for the trail segment and intersection crossing. The beacon and quarter mile trail segment connect the North School segment with North Londonderry. The project is "shovel ready" and will

cost \$219,000. The \$75,000 grant from the Hunt Foundation brings the cost down to \$144,000. The Foundation requires Trailways to raise \$75,000 to receive the full grant amount.

Pollyann Winslow, local volunteer for the Londonderry Trailways, said that the Trailways is always looking for donations, and funding has come in through all phases of planning.

"We're very grateful for the Hunt Foundation," Winslow said, "An entity outside our hometown saw value (in this project) and they wanted to support it."

Winslow mentioned that it was only right that the Londonderry community, which will be benefiting from the safety that will be provided by the

Hybrid Beacon, be supportive of the project. She said that ongoing talks with local businesses have been taking place to ensure that the project stay moving forward.

According to Winslow, in the trail's third phase of construction into Derry, Derry businesses Angus Insurance Company and Berkshire Hathaway Real Estate had been key contributors, as they had seen the value in the Rail Trail being close by to their businesses. She then said as construction of the trail heads north towards the airport, there would be more opportunities to approach different companies to see how they would like to support the community.

"What we hope is that

people recognize what an opportunity has been given to...make the area safer." Winslow said. "And if we don't raise the matching grant, then we lose this opportunity to have this beacon."

Winslow acknowledged that some might feel that the Beacon may not be the most desirable answer to crossing Route 28, but she explained that at this time, it is the best that can be done under the circumstances, with route 28 being a state highway under the regulations of the NHDOT, as the intersection currently does not qualify for a traffic signal that runs at all times.

"Sometimes we have to do things in stages," Winslow said. "(It) may not be what everybody

would like, but it is definitely progressive. (We're) Just grateful that we even have a light...we do what we can in each stage."

Londonderry Rail Trail Project Manager, Bob Rimol is pleased that the grant was awarded for the PHB. He says, "Safely crossing Route 28 will provide access to the future one mile Cohas Marsh section of trail – the most beautiful section of trail nobody knows about!"

As far as the projected completion date for the beacon, Winslow said that it all comes down to when the money is available to begin. She said that the hope is to be able to begin construction in the spring and have the beacon available later this year.

School

Continued from page 1

over budget by \$200,000 by the year's end.

Employee benefits should come in at budget, with the exception of Workers Comp insurance and employee retirement, according to Curro. The Workers Comp was on his radar from the beginning of the year as new contracts were negotiated, and is currently at a cost overrun of \$98,430. As for the retirement, the cost of "end of career" payouts is based on who will or has

submitted for retirement, he said.

While the district hired several new employees to keep pace with the growing elementary population, it also saw a significant number of retirees, leading to a reduced overall cost in the personnel line.

Regular education should come in at or under budget, Curro said, in part because of savings from staff turnover.

The savings plan includes continuing to monitor the use of substitute teachers, over which,

Curro wrote, the district is keeping a "tight rein." The district underfunds this account, with funding to come from savings from staff turnover due to retirement.

Buildings and Grounds will come near its approved budget, he said. The subgroup of utilities should be under budget, unless the weather turns colder. He reminded the board that snow affects the rest of the accounts in Buildings and Grounds, and not just the overtime line.

Information Technology (IT) saw several cost overruns, with \$85,437 in professional services, \$38,960 in software and \$57,769 in replacement

equipment. The three areas are necessary to support the services and stay in line with curriculum and program needs, and the money will be found in other General Fund accounts, Curro wrote.

The second-quarter report gives a good picture of where the district stands financially because it can incorporate six months' worth of data, according to Curro. But with the end of the year still six months off, "It allows us to make any adjustments," he told the board.

Anticipated revenues are on or below target, according to Curro. Ex-

penditures are also on or below target, he said.

Curro predicted a "modest" surplus of \$50,000 to \$100,000 by the end of the year, although he warned that, "We're only halfway through the winter." It's not necessarily the amount of the snow, but the timing of the storms, Curro said. If no significant storms occur over the next six weeks, and the district can keep some of its snow removal budget, that money can be used to defray other costs.

The budget is tighter than it was in previous years, Curro said.

"With snow and special education, we will just have to see," Vice-Chair Leitha Reilly observed.

The Dining Service expects to break even or generate a small profit, Curro said, incorporating

capital costs, transfer from the General Fund to cover free and reduced lunches at the high school, and deduction of commodity foods after the district withdrew the high school from the Federal school lunch program. Unbudgeted expenses included new ovens at Matthew Thornton and North elementary schools.

Curro also informed the board that he has been in contact with the Federal Department of Education, and that the DOE will not require Londonderry to have a price hike on its school lunches next year.

In other business, Greenberg gave a brief enrollment report, noting that enrollment is up 47 students over December of last year, and that the bulk of the increase is still in the elementary schools.

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Two More Ways to Connect With Local Schools

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Brenda Colameta, technology coordinator for the SAU 12 district, has already received feedback on Safe Stop, one of the IT Department's innovations for 2017. "One parent told me she received a 'yellow alert,'" Colameta said. "Her child's bus was going to be three minutes late."

They can reach thousands, or one worried parent. Colameta appeared in the Jan. 17 School

Board meeting to update the board and television audience on the latest tools to keep students, parents and educators connected.

The school district has initiated the use of two new notification systems, serving different needs. Colameta introduced the systems, Safe Stop and School Messenger, in a December meeting and piloted them in January.

Safe Stop is connected to school buses and bus-

and student-specific, according to Colameta. Parents can register on line, and receive an easy-to-use mobile app. The app will notify them when their child's bus is going to be late or has some other issue, Colameta said.

The directions for signing up for Safe Stop are on the district Web site, Colameta said.

School Messenger is a more general notification system covering everything from emergencies

such as shelter in place to unplanned early releases to school plays and concerts.

Over 800 staff members were trained on School Messenger, Colameta said, with messages appearing in text, e-mail and voice mail. It was a successful test and the training will continue with families, she said, noting that a family test was planned for Thursday, Jan. 19.

Colameta warned that interested families should

update their contact information.

"What is the process for changing your contact information?" Board Chair Nancy Hendricks asked.

Colameta said it could be done by logging on to the Aspen parent portal.

Colameta said all administrators are being trained on how to send out information on School Messenger.

Board member Jenn Ganem asked how the two new systems would work with parents who have

children in all three schools. "Do we get three different messages?" she wondered.

Colameta said with the Safe Stop bus alert, if there's an issue involving three buses, the parent will receive a message specific to each bus. School Messenger will send one notification, she said.

"One all the testing is done, we are ready to go," Colameta said.

Middle School Curriculum Offers Students More Options

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry Middle School students are getting a taste of high school with a peer tutoring program and an option to do an eighth-grade culminating project.

Principal Richard Zacchilli and Curriculum Coordinator Ann Collacchi appeared in the Jan. 17 School Board meeting to discuss updates to the Londonderry Middle School curriculum.

Zacchilli said no new courses are planned for 2017-18. The school has added a number of options over the past few years, including a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) arts course for sixth-graders and a Creative Computing and Media class elective for grade eight.

All three grades take classes in the core subjects of Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies, Zacchilli told the board. In addition, sixth-graders

have a reading component, and seventh-and eighth-grader take either reading or begin studying French or Spanish.

All students take Physical Education and Music along with units in Art, Computers, STEM and Health. In addition, Zacchilli said, eighth-graders have electives, the Creative Computing or Tech Ed.

In PE the emphasis is lifelong fitness, Zacchilli said, with segments on snowshoeing and bicycle riding.

Collacchi said one successful newer program is the eighth-grade seminar, modeled on Londonderry High School's Senior Project elective. "They have a lot of autonomy," Collacchi said, "in topic, pace, choice of mentor and how to demonstrate what they've learned." The program started last year with 12 enrollees, 11 of which made it to the end and presentation of their projects.

This year 21 students have enrolled, with projects ranging from building their own computer to filmmaking to creating a Web site for family history, she said.

The teachers chosen as mentors are "thrilled," according to Collacchi. Other projects, such as a girl's research into interior design, require community mentors who are also eager to volunteer.

Collacchi also reported on the Student Assistant program, a variation on peer tutoring introduced last year. In Student Assistant, seventh- and eighth-graders who are strong in a content area are invited to visit another classroom and coach less-proficient students. "They need academic skills and also interpersonal skills," Collacchi said. "They need to understand the privacy of the students they're working with. And they need to be independent and self-

motivated."

The program started last year, with three eighth-graders helping out in science classes. This year seven seventh-graders and three eighth-graders are helping out in math and science, she said.

The students need to be recommended by the prior year's teacher, and they need to have parental approval, Collacchi said, because Student Assistant will take them out of one of their own classes. The decision is made judiciously, she said. "A student can be pulled from Physical Education if they're active in sports, or from music if they took it in sixth grade," she said.

Chairman Nancy Hendricks asked about the new math curriculum, Math In Focus, now in its third year. She has not seen any hard data on its success, she said.

Collacchi said Math In Focus is the primary math

program for all three grades. Some seventh-graders qualify for pre-algebra and some eighth-graders for algebra, she said, but for most of the students it's Math In Focus.

"Anecdotally, teachers have told me they're pleased on how far they are able to get in the curriculum with this program," she told the board. Recent eighth-grade testing found LMS ahead of the state – and ahead of the country, she said.

Mary Wing Soares, an LMS teacher and faculty representative to the board, said, "I use it in the eighth grade and the kids are 'eating it up.' They understand concepts more clearly."

Board member Leitha Reilly said, "A lot of questions have come up about math and reading, in recent years. We are addressing it in a way that is unique to every child, but still allows teachers to teach the fundamentals."

Reilly said she is pleased that while students who struggle are being worked with, "Kids with a super grasp of the subject are allowed to charge forward."

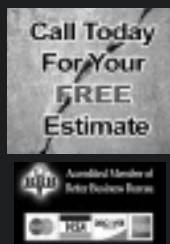
She praised the "marriage of technology and achievement in education" and said, "We are doing a better job."

The board voted 4-0 to approve the curriculum plan.

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Mr. Baldasaro Goes to Washington for Inauguration

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Al Baldasaro never had any doubt. The retired Marine sergeant and Republican state representative stuck with his candidate, Donald J. Trump, through a contentious primary and general election. This past weekend, Baldasaro and his wife Judy were guests of the President-elect at the Inaugural Concert, Inauguration, and the first of the Inaugural Balls.

The Baldasaros arrived in DC Thursday afternoon, stowed their bags, got changed and rushed to the concert. "We had seats right up front," Baldasaro said. "Donald Trump was just above us."

While Baldasaro is not a fan of country music he enjoyed the concert, noting, "To by Keith did a great job. His father was a Marine." He also enjoyed performances by Lee Greenwood, dancers and piano virtuosos.

The atmosphere at the concert was upbeat, he said, with other Trump supporters screaming with excitement. "It was like being on Cloud Nine to be part of that."

There was more to come, with the Inauguration Friday at noon. The Baldasaros were in the "blue section," on the left, and though they had to stand it was worth it, Baldasaro said.

"People had tears in their eyes," he said. Crowd members recognized Baldasaro from his television appearances, and they thanked him for his work for veterans, he said.

The atmosphere was electric, he said. "People were motivated, enthusiastic."

The Baldasaros stood in an area that had an earth floor, which turned to mud in Friday's rain, but they didn't care. "To have the opportunity to be there, it was worth it," he said.

In the afternoon the couple rushed to John Marshall Park, where Baldasaro gave a speech, the first of several, to the Bik-



Londonderry State Representative Al Baldasaro and his wife Judy had a full schedule of events to get to in Washington last week as the couple attended many of the Inauguration festivities.

ers For Trump group. There was an "ebb and flow" to the group there, sometimes reaching 100 to 200.

The Baldasaros saw some of the parade before going back to their hotel to get ready for the Inaugural Ball. "We were taking Uber cabs, and it was a matter of timing," Baldasaro explained. They also walked a lot, with Judy Baldasaro's step counter clocking them at 25 miles before the week-

end was done.

They were on Cloud Nine again at the dance, watching their candidate, now President, dance with his wife Melania and mingling with celebrities.

The next day they fought traffic generated by the Women's March to get to another Bikers For Trump rally. People from the Women's March wandered into the bikers' area, and at first the encounter was contentious, according to Baldasaro. But the bikers let one of the women speak, and by the end, "They were dancing with each other," he said.

Baldasaro toured the country at Trump's side, as the candidate's spokesperson for veterans' issues. He attracted national attention, and controversy, when he suggested in a radio interview that Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton be placed in front of a firing squad. But he and his candidate rebounded from the controversy.

Did he think these moments would ever come? Frankly, yes.

"I looked at my past election campaigns, the things I said, the things I stood for," Baldasaro recalled of that day more than a year ago. "I've seen the Silent Majority." Trump stood for the same things, and Baldasaro knew he could get elected.

"It was a movement," he said, noting that in addition to Republicans who didn't like the way the country was going, he also talked with Democrats who didn't like Clinton and Libertarians.

"People express themselves at the ballot box," he said.

Baldasaro expects that his candidate, now his President, will do what he set out to do, and he fully expects to be at a second Inauguration in 2021. For now, he'll work for his people and savor the memories of one weekend in January.

"We were part of history," he said.

OBITUARY

Peggy J. Corbett

Peggy J. Corbett, 59, of Londonderry, NH passed away Thursday, January 19, 2017 in her home. She was born on March 10, 1957 in Castro Valley, CA, a daughter of the late Norm Lapum and Twila (Shaplan) Lapum. Peggy was a stay at home mom who loved her daughter very much. She also participated in 'meet ups' with other families to buy and sell kids clothing and toys. She enjoyed spending time involved with her church.

She is survived by her husband of 25 years, Matthew Corbett; a daughter, Megan Corbett; a sister, Nancy Orr and a brother, Ron Lapum.

A memorial service will be held at 4:00pm on Thursday, January 26, 2017 in the Orchard Christian Fellowship Church, 136 Pillsbury Rd, Londonderry, NH 03053. Burial will be held in the springtime.

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Londonderry Middle Schooler Spells Her Way to Success



The LMS Spelling Bee winner was Isabel Schickler. Photos by Chris Paul



Jeffery Stanley placed second in the LMS Spelling Bee.



Alisha Khalil made it to third place in the Bee.

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

A sixth-grader at Londonderry Middle School is the winner of the school Spelling Bee, and will go on to the state finals.

And for the first time in three years the winner and runnerup weren't Timmy Gore and Luke Parcarelli. The two boys battled each of their three years at the middle school.

Isabel Schickler correctly spelled the word "ameliorate" to knock out the competition, and went on to correctly spell "flammable."

Isabel was in a similar contest in fourth grade, coming in second, and in fifth grade, coming in "fifth or sixth," she said.

Principal Richard Zacchilli said each grade level fielded three teams for the school Bee, with a total of nine teams. The

children going on to the school event were first winners in their Language Arts classes, he said.

While he's had sixth-graders win the school Bee before, Zacchilli noted that this was the first time in his history with the school where all 18 spellers made it to the fifth round. The competition was stiff, he said, and the teachers running the Bee had to go to a second

list.

Isabel admitted she was nervous onstage, and more nervous as the competition was winnowed down. "I was red, I felt like a tomato," she said.

Having her mother, Vanessa Vera, in the audience helped, Isabel said. "I felt I wasn't alone."

She also gave herself pep talks, she said. "I would think to myself, 'You know this word.

Don't mess up.'"

When she knew she'd won the school she "wanted to jump up and down," Isabel said, adding, "But I stayed cool."

Isabel prepped for the contest. "I went through the list, and even though I thought I knew the word, I wrote it down five times," she said. She also enlisted one of her brothers to read the words to her, and she spelled them back to him, she said. She worked up to an hour a day, she said.

She will prepare in a similar way for the state

Bee Feb. 25 in Concord.

Isabel is the daughter of Vanessa Vera and Matthew Schickler and has two brothers, Alex and Ethan.

Seventh-grader Jeff Stanley was runner-up, and will represent the school if Isabel can't make the state bee.

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Jenny the Juggler Amazes Children at Leach Library



Boston area entertainer “Jenny the Juggler” made an appearance at the children’s section of the Leach Library on Monday afternoon. She amazed attendees with jokes, juggling, magic, singing and dancing. The event was funded by the Friends of the Leach Library” and all those attending were treated to a balloon animal made for them by Jenny.

Photos by Chris Paul



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LONDONDERRY SPORTS

Buddies' Hoop Program Seeks to Help With Player Shortages

CAGERS CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

So, how does one of the most consistently successful New Hampshire Division I high school girls' basketball programs respond to experiencing shrinking numbers of players coming out to play for a span of several years?

Well, at Londonderry High School the answer has been a multi-pronged approach with one of its centerpieces being the resurgence of a Big/Little Buddies program which links LHS Lady Lancer varsity hoopsters with promising and spirited third grade cagers from the Londonderry Basketball Club.

A handful of years ago when present Lady Lancer starters Amanda DeAngelis and Emmy Dumaresq were in elementary school, the buddies' program existed and helped create a bond between the LHS cagers of that time and the LBC youths. But that important connection fell away in subsequent years.

Now, during the 2016-17 season, with the Londonderry High girls' hoop program having dwindled down to a mere 18 active players despite the fact that coach Nick Theos' Lady Lancers have been a top-four team in tough Division I for a whole bunch of years, there is no better time for the buddies' program to make a comeback. That was the thinking of Londonderry Basketball Club booster members Jolene and Mark DeAngelis - parents of the

aforementioned Amanda - and Suzanne Dumaresq, mom of Emmy.

It's certainly more than a little troublesome to Theos and the folks connected with the LHS girls' program that the Lady Lancers have gone without a freshman team - previously unthinkable - because turnout has been so low for tryouts each of the last two Novembers and Decembers. But Londonderry is far from the only program around dealing with that difficulty, and the reasons for it are numerous.

"It's a combination of five or six things, and it's not just us," said coach Theos. "Most teams around the state are having the same problem, except for Bishop Guertin (of Nashua) because they can go out and get kids and Pinkerton because they have so many kids who go there."

Some of the reasons for the low numbers of players interested in playing high school hoops include athletes' year-round involvement in sports like crew, soccer, and lacrosse, the desire or need of some youngsters to work jobs instead of playing sports, the fact that some of the better basketball players elect to go to private schools which will give them greater exposure to college coaches, programs, and possibly scholarships, and the fact that high school basketball seasons are extremely time-intensive and by necessity programs demand that



A program which claimed significant successes in the past - the Big/Little Buddies' program - has been renewed this year after a dormancy of some years. That program connects Londonderry High girl basketball players with Londonderry Basketball Club youth cagers in a mentoring scenario. Courtesy photo

players be available during Christmas and February vacations, which negates players' chances to vacation with their families during those periods.

One would expect that the Lady Lancers' state title wins in both 2014 and 2015 and the fact that they got within a single victory of playing in the Division I title game again last winter would make younger cagers want to a part of the high school program. But with all of the aforementioned challenges in play, the numbers simply haven't been there the last several years.

Jolene DeAngelis spearheaded the effort to get the Big/Little Buddies program rolling again, and plenty of folks are happy with the way in which it has happened.

Varsity players have been paired with third graders, and the fellow hoopsters have connected

regarding basketball and other concerns which they have in common.

The third graders have taken part in Lady Lancer pregames and played

short contests during half-times, and many also take place in the several Lady Lancer clinics - like the one held at LHS just this past Sunday - which take place

each year for young cagers in the third through eighth grades.

"With the younger kids, we're trying to pique their

Continued on page 14

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Londonderry High Swimmers Enjoy Successes in Home Meets

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry High School's boys' and girls' swim squads wound up with plenty of reasons to puff out their chests with pride and wear wide grins following impressive and productive performances in seven-team meets in their home pool on the evening of Friday, Jan. 20.

Veteran LHS coach Chrys Ewen saw her Lancer males run the table and dominate all six of their opponents in going a perfect 6-0 on the night. And Ewen's Lady Lancers were quite nearly as good, posting a superb 5-1 record on the evening.

BOYS

The Londonderry guys defeated Alvirne of Hudson 99-67, Campbell of Litchfield 127-20, Salem by a 129-14 margin, Spaulding of Rochester by a 126-21 count, John Stark Regional of Weare by a

128-15 margin, and the Goffstown Grizzlies by a lopsided 118-29 score.

First place performances were put forth by Nick Byrne in the 100-yard freestyle (56.58 seconds) and the 200-yard freestyle (2 minutes, 04.08 seconds) and Richard Chen in the 200-yard individual medley (6:38.52), and the Lancers took the first place (4:01.43) and second spots in the 400 free relay.

Other second places were claimed by Jack Stuart in the 50 free, Harrison Feig in the 100-yard breaststroke, and the 200 free relay and 200 medley relay quartets.

Tallying third place finishes were Stuart in the 100 free, Brian Parrott in both the 100-yard butterfly and the 100-yard backstroke, Chen in the 200-yard individual medley, and Mike Hession in the 200 free.



Richard Chen produced two top-three finishes for the LHS boys' swim team recently.

GIRLS

The lone opponent to get the better of the Lady Lancers was the Alvirne High Lady Broncos' bunch from Hudson, which notched a 91-79 success.

Other than that, there were all decisive wins for the LHS contingent, which downed Campbell by a 134-10 score, Goffstown by a 128-29 tally, John

Stark Regional by a 128-27 margin, Salem by a score of 113-57, and Spaulding's Lady Red Raiders by a 129-25 margin.

First places were delivered for the Lady Lancers by Emily Buttafuoco in the 500 free (27.26) and the local squad's 400 free relay quartet (4:15.55).

Londonderry seconds were collected by Buttafuoco in the 100-yard



Jasmine Brown contributed to the LHS girls' swim team's recent success. Photos by Chris Paul

backstroke, Anna Gruchot in both the 100-yard butterfly and the 200 IM, and the LHS 200 free relay and 200 medley relay crews.

Third places came from Jasmine Brown in the 100 free, Madison Martin in the 200 free, and

Anna Kemball-Cook in the 100-yard butterfly.

This week's slate has the Londonderry High swim squads closing out their regular seasons with a home meet on Friday night. The state championships loom ahead.

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Lady Lancer Tracksters Working to Remain in the Competitive Flow

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

With regular season team meets over and done with but the Division I championships looming up ahead, members of the Londonderry High girls' track and field team made the road trip to the Uni-

versity of New Hampshire in Durham this past Sunday, Jan. 22 to work at improving their event times and placements and keep themselves in top competitive shape.

And top event finishes were tallied by Gretchen McGrath in the 600-meter run (first place in 1

minute, 37.94 seconds) and the 55-meter dash (second, 7.74 seconds).

Lexy Freire notched a second in the 55-meter hurdles (8.94), and the LHS 4x400-meter relay quartet of Jess Brien, McGrath, Alex Seeley, and Bella Ziolek finished second with its time of

4:25.14.

The Lady Lancers are slated to take part in another open meet at the University of Southern Maine in Gorham on Sunday Jan. 29, with the DI championships set for Dartmouth College's Leverson Field House in Hanover on Feb. 5.



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Lancer Icemen Freeze Out Salem Squad in a 2-1 OT Battle

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

With the stinging memory of losing an overtime game still fresh in its memory, the Londonderry High School ice hockey squad passed that awful sensation over to an opponent less than a week later.

The Lancers, who suffered a dramatic and frustrating overtime defeat at the hands of the rival Pinkerton Academy Astros in Hooksett in front of a big and spirited crowd on the afternoon of Friday the 13th, claimed their own overtime success last Wednesday the 18th on their former home ice at the Salem Icenter against the host Salem High Blue Devils.

The locals, who advanced to a strong 6-2

in tough Division I with the win - snagging their third success in their last four divisional contests - tallied a 1-0 lead in the first period but watched the Blue Devils knot the score at 1-1 in the second.

The third period was scoreless despite the fact that the Lancers enjoyed a 7-2 advantage in shots on net, and overtime was required.

The Londonderry crew had fire in its eyes and its bellies to start the extra stanza, and it won the game just 1:08 after that period began.

Murphy brothers Patrick and Bryan did the goal-scoring for the Lancers, with senior Bryan becoming the hero of the night by potting the winner.

The younger Murphy - a sophomore - started the

evening's scoring by notching his marker a mere 3:59 after the opening face-off. He collected a loose puck in the slot in front of the Salem net and rifled a low shot past Blue Devils' goalie Paddy Capalis.

Salem responded immediately by putting forth pressure on LHS sophomore keeper Cam Donovan, but the hosts wouldn't knot the score at 1-1 until a little more than three minutes remained in the middle stanza at the end of a two-on-one rush.

After the teams failed to bust their deadlock in stanza three, the elder Murphy threw his teammates and their fans into high celebration mode by deciding the contest in overtime.

"I think we were pretty

good throughout the game," said LHS veteran coach Peter Bedford. "We limited their opportunities and played them tight, and Salem has been playing a lot of teams tough. And to rebound from that previous game (against Pinkerton) was big for us."

Londonderry junior forward Patrick McKinnon contributed an assist to the successful cause, and goalie Donovan finished the night with some 20 saves.

The Lancers skated back into Division I competition this Wednesday, Jan. 25 in Nashua against the host Nashua North/Souhegan contingent, after Londonderry Times press time. That opposing squad went 1-5 in its first six games of the 2016-17 campaign.



Lancer junior forward Patrick McKinnon contributed an assist to his team's dramatic overtime win over Salem at the Salem Icenter during the middle of last week. Photo by Chris Pantazis

Ball Family Trophy Contests Announced by High Schools

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

With a bunch of contests having been played between the Londonderry High School and Pinkerton Academy winter varsity sports contingents during the week of Jan. 9, it was only logical that fans from both sides would be asking "Do these games count toward the Ball Trophy?"

The winter Ball Family Trophy Games were added by the two local rival schools during the early 1990's as an extension of the Mack Plaque Games which began during the

Fall of 1983 as a way for the schools' communities and programs to celebrate and savor their athletic rivalry. The spring Beeman Trophy Games were also begun at the same time as the Ball games to give the spring squads from LHS and PA the chance to compete in a series themselves.

Last week, LHS athletic director Howard Sobolov and Pinkerton's first-year AD Brian O'Reilly connected and established the dates of the winter varsity contests which will count toward the Ball Family Trophy competition for the 2016-

17 winter season.

The LHS/PA swim meets which took place in Londonderry on Friday, Jan. 13 began the tallying of Ball Family points for the respective schools, with Pinkerton snaring the victory in boys' swimming and Londonderry taking the point in girls' swimming.

The following Monday, Jan. 16, the Pinkerton girl gymnasts defeated the defending state champion Londonderry Lady Lancers in Manchester to bump the Astros' Ball Trophy count up to 2-1.

Ball Family battles then continue this week

with the wrestling teams meeting up at Pinkerton this Wednesday Jan 25 at PA, after Nutfield Publishing press times. The unified basketball teams play this Friday afternoon the 27th at LHS, and the varsity girls' and boys' basketball teams will play that evening at the academy.

The ice hockey squads will face off the next night at 8 on Pinkerton home ice at The Ice Den in Hooksett, and the track

and field contingents will battle at The University of Southern Maine on Sunday the 29th.

The ski teams will compete at Mount Sunapee on Feb. 2, and if necessary the Ball Family competition could come down to the state winter spirit championships at Pinkerton on March 12 for tie-breaking purposes.

The spirit championships have served as the Ball Trophy tie-breaker

each of the last two years, with Pinkerton winning both times to stretch its school's Ball Family Trophy winning streak up to five consecutive years.

Last winter Pinkerton won wrestling, gymnastics, boys' swimming, boys' track, boys' basketball, girls' track, and spirit. Londonderry took hockey, girls' swimming, girls' track, unified basketball, girls' basketball, and boys' skiing.

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Lancer Grapplers Grab Third Place at the Timberlane Invitational

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Three were wild for the Londonderry High School wrestling squad at the annual Timberlane Wrestling Invitational in Plaistow last Saturday, Jan. 21.

The locals ended up in third place overall behind the victorious host Timberlane Regional Owls and the runner-up Southington (Ct.) crew. And the Lancers ended up having no less than six of their athletes collect third places as individuals as

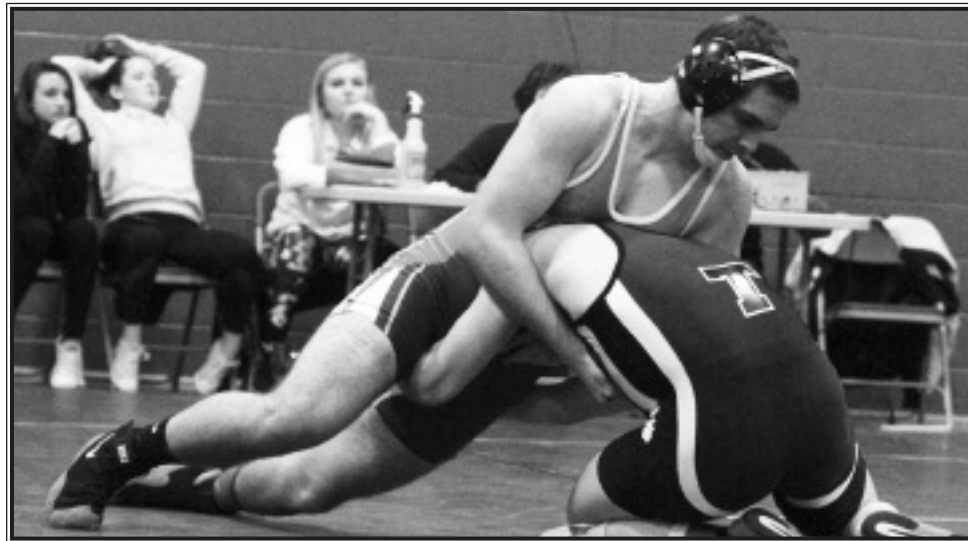
well.

The Londonderry grapplers got thirds from Craig Santos at 138 pounds, Tyler Byrd in the 145-pound division, Drew Chase at 152 pounds, Colin Reardon at the 160-pound level, Alex Boucher at 182 pounds, and Ben Psaledas in the 195-pound class.

Coach Jason Cucolo's LHS crew also had 132-pound wrestler David Donnelly and 170-pounder Michael Watts tally 2-2 records, while individual successes were claimed

by Brandon Drake at 113 and Blaine Hopkins in the 220-pound division.

The Loancer crew then rolled into this week looking at a very busy schedule, with a Ball Family Trophy Games battle with the arch-rival Pinkerton Academy Astros in Derry this Wednesday, Jan. 25, after Londonderry Times press time, followed by a ride across the New Hampshire border into Massachusetts for the Methuen Tournament on Saturday the 28th.



Battle-tested Londonderry High senior grappler Colin Reardon finished a very solid third at the recent Timberlane Invitational. Photo by Chris Paul

Buddies

Continued from page 11

interest in the Londonderry High program and talking about what it means to be a Lancer," said coach Theos. "We try to make them feel invested in the program."

Theos and his last several assistants and junior varsity coaches Ian Horseman and Jamie Doyle have attended Londonderry Middle School tryouts over the last few years to gauge what kinds of talent they have coming to them,

and the LMS program has been all kinds of strong where numbers are concerned. The 2016-17 middle school program had some 45 players try out and has two teams.

So, on paper, there are plenty of reasons to feel that the Londonderry High girls' hoop program's feeder system is strong and hopefully growing even stronger with the return of the Big/Little Buddies' program.

"Essentially, our goal is to build a girls' basketball community, a girls-sup-

porting-girls environment that encourages younger ball players to get involved and experienced players to pay it forward," said Suzanne Dumaresq.

Jolene DeAngelis - whose husband Mark was a longtime Londonderry Basketball Club coach - is directing the relaunched buddies' program and is quite happy with the way it has gone this winter.

"The program was such a positive thing for our girls when they were younger, so we thought it would be good to start it

back up both for the high school players and the younger girls," said Jolene DeAngelis.

Emmy Dumaresq, a starting sophomore guard for the Lady Lancers' contingent who is enjoying a strong 2016-17 season, sees first-hand the benefits of being a big buddy after having been a little buddy years ago.

"What I like best about the buddies' program is being given the chance to help these girls improve with basketball, and maybe be the reason they stick with the sport," she

said. "When I was a little one, I looked up to the high school players, and that motivated me to keeping playing basketball."

Dumaresq's fellow Londonderry High starter Hannah Hagearty is also a serious fan of the multiple benefits of the buddies' program for all involved.

"The big buddies' program is a great opportunity for both the younger players and for us as mentors," she said. "We are able to provide a positive experience for the girls, and support them not only on the court but teach

them important lessons about team-work, communication, and work ethic. I really enjoy giving back to the community and seeing the smiles on the players' faces when working on drills, scrimmaging, or playing games."

The buddies' program is one important facet in a dedicated effort to keep the LHS girls' hoop program strong going forward and return the numbers of players back to previous totals, with lots of young cagers taking pride in the fact that they are or can in the future be Lady Lancers.

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NH STEAM Program Iconic Mascot Turns 30; Gets A Makeover

After 30 years with the New Hampshire Gnome representing the creative problem-solving Destination Imagination program in the Granite State, the iconic mascot has had a facelift.

The New Hampshire Destination Imagination gnome, often called NHICC, has been at mascot days at ski areas, Fisher Cat games, and at three decades of Destination Imagination competitions where students compete in STEAM-based Challenges that build creative, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and problem solving skills. The original gnome, drawn by a student, was a nod to both the Old Man of the Mountain and the magic creativity and collaboration bring out in our students. The organization will have nearly 2,000 students from around the state participating in the program this year.

"Our alumni, who were once on teams when they were younger, current team

members and our volunteers really wanted to keep the magical qualities of the gnome as our identity," according to Wayne Kurtzman, NH-DI Volunteer Marketing Director. "It's exciting to build on our own legacy and truly keep the fun and creativity in our message." The organization also partnered with Southern New Hampshire University Marketing Degree in Three program to help execute the NH-DI vision.

Each year, teams from elementary school to college select one of seven Challenges based on Technical, Scientific, Structural, Fine Arts, Improvisational, Service Learning or the non-competitive early learning Challenge. These open-ended challenges are praised on creativity and innovation skills. New Hampshire teams advance from regional tournaments in the state, advancing by highest scoring challenge and age level. Teams advancing from our state tournament qualify



At left, the original Destination Imagination Icon was developed in 1987. The gnome recently got a facelift, shown at right.



to advance to Destination Imagination Global Finals, where they will compete with top teams from 20 countries, including every state and province.

According to Kurtzman, NH-DI has a long history of students and parents who are/were on teams from Londonderry, Derry, Chester, Sandown and Hampstead. He said that so far this year he knew of over 275 students on school teams participating in NH-

DI, a majority so far from Londonderry and Derry, from the elementary, middle and high schools. Teams are currently still being built, Kurtzman said.

"Adults and friends cannot interfere with suggestions, share ideas or help build the solution. The learning and creative process comes from doing," according to Anna Maenhout, NH-DI Executive Director. "Today is about learning new ways to improve their

teams and take ownership of the creative process and their solution."

The New Hampshire company Brandit marketing solutions will also partner with NH-DI in creating new line of NH-DI gnome products.

About New Hampshire Destination Imagination

Each year, our student participants learn creative, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and problem solving skills – among the most needed 21st century business skills. These skills are built through STEAM-based Challenges.

New Hampshire Destination Imagination (NH-DI) is administered by NHICC, New Hampshire's Incredible Creativity Connection, an independent 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Each year, over 1,800 Granite State students from over 100 schools and community groups each year. There are over 110,000 alumni: adults who were on teams as stu-

dents. Teams start in the fall, compete in March to try and advance to Destination Imagination Global Finals in May.

Annually, we offer seven new standards-based Challenges in STEM (truly STEAM), Improv, Visual Arts, Service Learning, and Early Learning. Each Challenge is open-ended and enables student teams to learn and experience the creative process from imagination to innovation. Academic tournaments take place around the world where teams have the opportunity to present their solutions to trained appraisers. Students have fun and gain confidence in their ability to solve any challenge.

"DI" is unique in that these solutions must be fully solved and created by the team members alone.

NHICC also runs Camp Gottalikachallenge, one of the nation's oldest creativity camp, which will be celebrating its 25th year this summer.

When Life Gives You Lymes

Londonderry Times Publisher Deb Paul explains the effects of Lyme Disease, a bacterial infection she has been battling over the past year.

Growing up I was always full of vigor and strength. I was like the Energizer bunny and Xena rolled in one, I just kept going and going and going and going...and nothing could stop me.

Nothing except for a seemingly insignificant insect bite.

Lyme Disease currently affects 300,000 people every year, according to the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention. I just so happen to be one among those unfortunate figures. And I'll be the first to tell you, if you're not one of these people, count your blessings, forwards and backwards.

For those of you who may not know, Lyme Disease is a bacterial infection caused by a tick bite. Specifically, an Ixode tick bite, otherwise known as the deer tick (and on the west coast, it's the black-legged tick. Many people assume Lyme is an east coast disease, but unfortunately our fellow Americans to the

west aren't out of the woods, pun not intended). These suckers (again, pun not intended) are usually lurking in the woods, in trees, and tall grass and are the reason your mother may have told you to pull your socks over your pants and up to your knees and take other precautions like that. Believe you me, a little short-term embarrassment over a wardrobe choice like that is worth twice your weight in gold to prevent the risk of Lyme.

So what is so particularly dangerous about these tick bites? It's the bacteria

that these nasty little bug-gers transmit into you when they chomp down. Lymedisease.org states that the disease is caused by a spirochete, a corkscrew-shaped bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi*. It works its way through your bloodstream causing all sorts of terrible symptoms, making it known as "The Great Imitator", as these symptoms mimic a number of other ailments, such as chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, multiple sclerosis, and even psychiatric illnesses like depression. As it turns out, a large number of people often go undiagnosed for a long time, until

the disease has manifested itself in the worst way. You probably have put it together that I am one of those unfortunate people.

I could go on about the toll this terrible illness has taken on my body, my mind, and my soul. Each and every day is a battle that so far I have been able to overcome, but sadly the war is far from over.

There is a lot to cover about this illness, and I intend to bring awareness to my valued, dedicated readers. This disease is found on every continent in the world except for Antarctica (at least the penguins are safe), and everyone

deserves to be informed.

Of course this is just one disease of many in this world, but no disease is created equal, but I feel that I should share my experiences with you and tell you all there is to know about this wretched ailment. Who knows? I may be able to help you help you, or someone you know that may be suffering alongside me.

Until then, I continue to fight. I may not be all I used to be, but I'll be darned if I'll let it take all of me. This is just one of the ways I intend to fight back.

Stay tuned for the next installment of "When Life gives you Lymes"

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Around Town Policy: 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 \$40.00/week per paper. All Around Town/Calendar Items will be held to 100 words maximum; anything over will incur a charge of \$40.00/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.

Buy a Bowl, Help the Community

The Potter's Bowl to benefit Community Caregivers will be held Saturday, Feb. 4, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Pinkerton Academy Freshman Cafeteria. For \$40, patrons will be able to pick a handcrafted pottery bowl donated by local New Hampshire artists, and enjoy more than a dozen different soups donated from local restaurants in the Derry area as well as breads and desserts. Other handcrafted items will be offered in an auction including paintings, matted photography, wooden crafts, clothing and handcrafted jewelry. In an effort to encourage more families with children, the Caregivers will offer a "Kids Under 12" ticket for \$10. Tickets are currently on sale. To purchase a ticket call Caregivers at 432-0877 or drop by 1 B Commons

Drive, Unit 10, Londonderry, during the business day. For a soup menu, directions, and a list of auction items visit www.comcaregivers.org or the agency's Facebook page.

Teacher Talent Show

The Eighth Annual Teacher Talent Show will be held Thursday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. in Londonderry High School. Tickers are \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door, and can be purchased at the Welcome Center near the front door. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. A student art display will be offered along with refreshments. For more information, call 432-6941.

Spring Sports

Registration is open for Londonderry High School spring sports. To register, find the link to the online registration portal, Family ID, at <http://lhs.londonderry.org/athletics>. For more information, call the athletic

office at 432-6941, ext. 2307.

Register Now for Preschool

The Londonderry Early Education Program (LEEP) is currently registering children for the 2017-18 session. LEEP is a developmentally appropriate preschool respectful of the talents and needs of individual children. The teachers are all certified educators and the program is provided by the Londonderry School District. Programs for 3-year old preschoolers meet from 8:45 to 11:00 a.m., either two or four days per week and the program for prekindergarten students meets from noon to 2:30 p.m., either three or four days per week. Tuition is preschool, \$150 per month, two days, \$200 per month, four days; Pre-K \$180 per month, three days and \$200 per month, four days. Applications and the LEEP Handbook are avail-

able online on the Moose Hill School Web site. For more information, contact Kathy Kelley at 437-5855, ext. 7223, or e-mail her at kkelley@londonderry.org or Kim Speers at kspeers@londonderry.org.

Seniors Invited to Breakfast

Senior breakfasts resume Friday, Jan. 27, in the Londonderry Senior Center. Cost is \$4 per person. This month's speaker will be Dr. Tai Slyne from Amodeaus Health Care, speaking on beating the winter blues. For more information, call the Center at 432-8554.

Center Announces Seasonal Closings

The Londonderry Senior Center will follow the Londonderry Schools' pattern for dealing with winter weather. If the schools have a delayed opening, the Center will have a delayed opening, opening at 9 a.m. If the schools are closed for inclement weather, the Center will also be closed. For information, call 432-8554.

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The Leach Library has a collection of downloadable digital books and access to more through the New Hampshire Downloadable Books Consortium website. To explore the online collection and get started, visit nh.overdrive.com. Users

can search for specific titles and authors or browse by featured collection or genre. Sign in with your library card number to place holds and borrow titles. Titles can be read on a computer or other compatible device such as a smartphone, e-reader, MP3 player, or tablet. On compatible devices, the collection may be accessed through the Overdrive app which can be downloaded from Apple's App Store, Google Play, or the Amazon Appstore. To learn more about compatible devices, visit Overdrive's device guide at <http://help.overdrive.com/#devices>. For more information, call the Reference Desk at 432-1132 or e-mail reference@londonderrynh.org.

Help Shape Democrats' Future in Londonderry

The Londonderry Democratic Committee will hold its Election of Officers Saturday, Feb. 18 in the Leach Library, 275 Mammoth Road. Officers are sought along with delegates to the state convention. For more information, contact Chairwoman Tam Siekmann at chair@londonderrydems.com; call 425-3515; visit www.londonderrydems.com; or check out their Facebook page.

Winter Coats Available

The Renew Clothing Ministry will be open Saturday, Feb. 4, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. in Calvary Bible Church, Hampstead Road, Derry. Those interested in clothing are asked to arrive by 10 a.m. Winter coats are in stock, with a limited number per household. To make sure the newer clothing is available for everyone, each family is limited to 20 of the newer items, plus a "reasonable amount" of the older ones. The service gives free gently-used apparel to families and individuals on a budget. Donations of modern clothing in good condition may be placed in the donation bin at any time. The shop does not accept housewares, books, toys or bedding. The ministry is unable to provide tax receipts for donations. No money is asked for or accepted for the clothing. For more information find "Renew Derry" on Facebook, e-mail renewclothing@myfairpoint.net or renewclothing@yahoo.com, or call the church secretary at 434-1516.

Celebrate Work of Mo Willems

The work of Mo Willems will be the subject of a children's program Monday, Feb. 6, from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Leach Library Children's Room. Children will hear the adventures of Elephant and Piggie, help find Knuffle Bunny and find out why pigeons should not drive. There will also be a chance to help Duckling find his cookie. All participants will receive a goody bag and will be entered into a raffle to earn one of two special Mo Willems-themed prizes. This program is open to 90 participants of all ages and registration is required. To register, call 432-1127, or stop by the Children's Room.

Italian Gardens

The Leach Library will host a program on "Iconic Italian Gardens" Thursday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. in the Leach Library, Londonderry. Presenter Laura Campbell will explore the history of several well-known Italian gardens including Ninfa, Villa Lante, and Villa D'Este. She will present her own photographs of the gardens and offer her observations as well as professional insights. This program is free and open to the public with seating limited to the first 90 individuals. It will be held in the library's lower-level meeting room. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call 432-1132.

Live Animals

Children are invited to join staff members of the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center Tuesday, Feb. 21, from 4 to 5 p.m. to hear the stories of three native New Hampshire animals who returned from the edge of extinction. Participants will encounter three live animals, learn about their habitats and characteristics, and then learn about a person who has helped the animals to thrive. Live animals may include a Peregrine falcon, Broadwing hawk and porcupine (live animals). This program is open to 90 participants of all ages. Registration is required and begins Monday, Feb. 13, at 9 a.m. To register, call 432-1127 or stop by the Children's Room. This program is sponsored by The Friends of the Londonderry Leach Library

Continued on page 17

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Around Town

Continued from page 16

Middle-schoolers' Opinions Sought

Young Adult voting on New Hampshire's Isinglass award-winning book titles is ongoing through the end of March, and is open to all students in grades six through eight. The Isinglass Award nominees are books recommended by Middle School students. Brochures listing the titles may be found in the young adult area. Everyone that takes part in the voting will receive a chance to win a Barnes & Noble gift certi-

cate. Students may vote more than once for any title from the list.

Free meals

The following free meals are offered in January: Jan. 29, Breakfast at Church of the Transfiguration, 9 to 10 a.m., 1 Hood Road, Derry, 432-2130; Jan. 27, Spaghetti Supper at First Parish Congregational Church, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 47 East Derry Road, Derry, 434-0628; and Jan. 29, Lunch at St. Jude Parish Community, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., 435 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, 432-3333. In addition, the Sonshine Soup Kitchen serves a free meal every weeknight from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Brighten a Life with Hospice

Volunteers are sought for Amedisys Hospice in Londonderry. Volunteers can make the life of a patient a little brighter by reading together, playing a board game or doing a puzzle or by simply visiting and sharing valuable time. Amedisys Hospice has an immediate need for volunteers in Rockingham County, Manchester and Concord. For more information contact Patty Cooper at patricia.cooper@amedisys.com or 421-0414.

Dancers Unite to Help

The Melissa Hoffman Dance Center will hold its annual Make A Wish performance Jan. 29, 2017. The dance center has donated more than \$100,000 to Make A Wish, which grants wishes to terminally ill children. Local dancers 6 and older are invited to participate. Those interested should download the application form and return it by Dec. 15. Mandatory rehearsals are Jan. 14, 21 and 28. The form may be downloaded at <http://melissahoffmandancecenter.info/make-a-wish-2017/>. Business owners may also donate an item

for the raffle. Tickets to the event are \$15 each. For more information write to mhdcdance@comcast.net.

Blood Drive

A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held Tuesday, Jan. 31, from 1 to 7 p.m. in the Londonderry Lions Hall. The drive is sponsored by St. Jude Parish but is being held at the Lions Hall due to renovation of the church. Donors may register with the RapidPass system by visiting redcrossblood.org/RapidPass. For more information, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or contact Vinny Curro at vincurro@comcast.net or 867-7472.

Books and Ice Cream

The Londonderry Middle School will hold its annual Scholastic Book Fair during the week of Jan. 30 through Feb. 3 at the school. Students may purchase books before or after school or during their assigned time during the class day. In addition, a Family Ice Cream Social will be held Wednesday, Feb. 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the sixth-grade pod area. The book fair will be open. All students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Elementary fifth-grade students are also welcome with a parent or

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Crossing Guard Joins Forces with Husband To Create Artwork

MELISSA BETH RUIZ
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Many readers will recognize Londonderry resident Tracy McKearney as one of the crossing guards at South School, but what many may not know is when she is not making sure Londonderry youngsters cross the road safely, she is busy creating breathtaking works of art.

Tracy has been in partnership with her husband, Brian McKearney since 2014 with their business, Snow Dog Woodworks and Quiltworks. They divide and conquer the work with Brian creating the handcrafted wood items and Tracy crafting handmade quilts. In addition to traditional sewing, Tracy is also a professional longarm quilter.

Tracy's love of quilting began in 1998, when she made her start as a hand-quilter, tying a majority of her earlier pieced quilts. She then moved to free-motion quilting on her sewing machine, but

found that her larger pieces were too big to maneuver under the machine by hand, and her design ideas were too limited by using the device.

To help her better implement her designs on larger pieces, Tracy purchased an Innova ABM Longarm quilting machine, a large sewing device made especially for quilting that consists of a large frame upon which the top, batting and backing are held. The machine moves freely around the top of the quilt, stitching all three layers together.

According to Tracy, when a quilter puts together the top of a quilt, it needs to be completed by adding a layer of backing and batting fabric to become a finished product. To hold the three layers together, the quilter can either fasten it using yarn or a strong thread to "tie" all three layers together, or it can be hand-quilted with a needle and thread to create small stitches, creating a



Beautiful, hand-crafted quilts and bowls such as these are available at Tracy and Brian McKearney's Snowdog Woodworking and Quiltworking shop on Etsy at www.etsy.com/shop/SnowDogQuiltWoodwork

secondary design on the quilt top to hold all three layers together.

"This process is an art, and a very beautiful way of finishing a quilt," Tracy said "but (it) can be very time consuming for some, and limits the quilter to certain design options."

Tracy went on to say that free-motion quilting done either on a longarm machine or a domestic sewing machine provides the quilter with endless design options, and a possible shorter time frame to complete the project.

"I truly enjoy being a part of a quilter's process of making their quilt tops extra special and turning them into quilts," Tracy said. She explained that her longarm quilting is done completely freehand with no computer guidance, and as a result her work will always have a "homemade feel and personal one-of-a-kind touch..."

Tracy offers longarm-ing services to quilters who are looking for a secondary design element for their special quilts using a longarm machine.

Brian turns many of the business's bowls from logs, the process involving rough turning so that the wood takes on the shape

of a bowl, usually 1-2 inches thick. The rough bowls are then stored for a minimum of 6 months to allow the wood to dry and will typically change into an oval shape. After drying, the rough bowls are turned on the lathe again to take on their final shape.

The business is named for the McKearneys' dogs, two Siberian Huskies (also known as Snow Dogs), combining the love they have for their four-legged companions with their love of their artistic hobbies.

Tracy and Brian's works of art are available on their Etsy store at www.etsy.com/shop/SnowDogQuiltWoodwork. For more information about their company, and to learn more about Tracy's Longarming services, visit their website at www.snowdogquiltworks.com.

Around Town

Continued from page 17

guardian. Principal Richard Zacchilli will be available for school tours. For more information, call the school or e-mail Melissa Cote at cotep@comcast.net Middle-schoolers' opinions sought

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Young Adult Voting

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TOWN OF LONDONDERRY AND LONDONDERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE OF DELIBERATIVE SESSIONS

The Town of Londonderry and the Londonderry School District will be conducting their Deliberative Sessions. The following are the details:

- The 2017 Deliberative Session of the Londonderry School District shall be held on Friday, February 10, 2017, beginning at 7:00PM in the Londonderry High School Cafeteria. All warrant articles shall be acted upon at that time for placement on the School District Official Ballot.
- The 2017 Deliberative Session of the Londonderry Budgetary Town Meeting shall be held on Saturday, February 11, 2017, beginning at 9:00AM at the Londonderry High School Cafeteria. All warrant articles shall be acted upon at that time for placement on the Town Meeting Official Ballot.

Voting for all town and school officials and all Official Ballot Warrant Articles shall take place on Tuesday, March 14, 2017, between 7:00AM and 8:00PM at the Londonderry High School Gymnasium.



TOWN OF LONDONDERRY PUBLIC NOTICE (FOR NEW APPLICANTS ONLY)

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