

Londonderry Times

March 16, 2017 ♦ Volume 18 – Issue 11

A FREE Weekly Publication



Musher Up North

Gail Guertin, and her Siberian Huskies were the guests of the fourth grade last week at North School and the history of sled dog racing. Students have been learning about the Iditarod, and the annual visit give them a first-hand look at the racing gear. *Photo by Chris Paul*

Police Deal with Shortages in Light of Greater Needs

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry Police Chief Bill Hart is used to having a large candidate pool for the initial police officer's exam. He's also used to seeing that number drop

during different stages of the process, until he's actually able to give a badge to one or two.

Many are called but few can be chosen, according to Hart. Londonderry will be giving the entry-level police

exam to candidates on May 21, in hopes of attracting new officers to an increasingly complex community and needs.

Hart wrote in an e-mail that the test is held specifically to hire entry-

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Stonehedge Project Voted Down By Planning Board

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The people of Londonderry ultimately prevailed, in a four-hour showdown with a local developer.

The March 8 Planning Board meeting featured one main topic, the proposal to build a multi-family workforce housing apartment complex on land on Stonehenge Road near Hardy Road. While some board members were conflicted and the threat of a lawsuit remains (see related story), the board, in its second vote of the evening, rejected the plan, 4 to 2.

The property is Tax Map 12, Lots 120 and 131, and is zoned AR-1. The proposal is to build a

multi-family workforce housing apartment complex with 12 24-unit buildings, a total of 288 rental units.

The developers and owners of the parcel are First Londonderry Association LLC.

The proposal has already been before the Zoning Board and granted several waivers. It has been through two public hearings. The application was accepted as complete in the Dec. 6 Planning Board meeting. Discussion was continued to Jan. 4 and continued again until February, when the developers requested another continuation until March. The Planning Board is on a 65-day "clock," Town Planner Colleen Mailloux said, and the developers

granted them an extension.

The Council Chambers were filled with residents who spilled out into the hallway. A uniformed police officer was present at the request of Town Manager Kevin Smith, and the meeting was filmed by WMUR.

Planning Vice-Chair Mary Wing Soares conducted the meeting in the absence of Chairman Art Rugg. In the beginning she said she would like to limit public comment, but she was overruled by some of her board members and a restless audience.

On the staff side, Assistant Director of Public Works John Trottier said that in the Dec. 7 meeting the board had

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Town Election Postponed, Shelter Put on Standby

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Town of Londonderry has postponed its March election to Tuesday, March 21, due to a nor'easter storm that blanketed Southern New Hampshire and showed no signs of stopping.

The decision was made Monday at about 4 p.m. after extensive discussion with stakeholders, according to Town Moderator Bob Sauer.

Sauer said he made the decision with School Moderator Cindi Rice Conley after substantial input from Town Manager

Kevin Smith, Fire Chief Darren O'Brien, Police Chief Bill Hart, several Town Councilors and Superintendent of Schools Nate Greenberg.

It was not a snap decision, according to Sauer. "We've been looking at the weather since last Friday," he said in a phone interview Tuesday.

"We were on the fence for a while," Sauer said. "But we decided we needed to give people the opportunity to vote safely."

Sauer said he and Rice Conley took an oath to uphold the laws, and "It weighed heavily on me,"

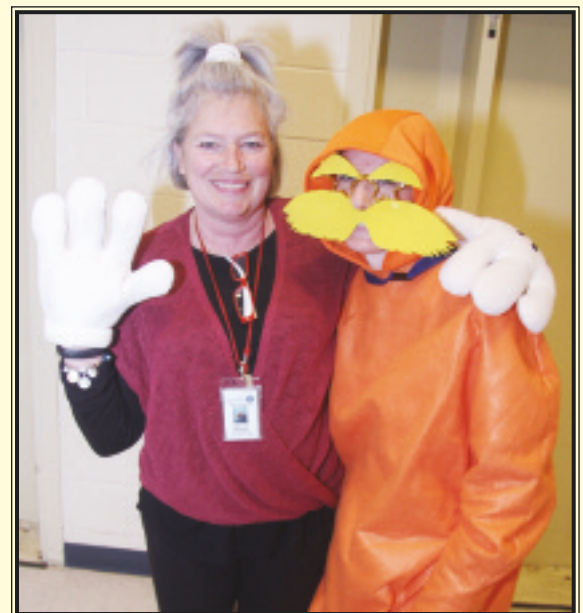
he said. Though Gov. Chris Sununu advised towns to go ahead, Sauer was concerned about people who couldn't get out. He and Rice Conley committed to allow people to have "free and fair elections," and "I didn't want to do something

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South School Celebrates Dr. Seuss' Birthday



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There were lots of Dr Seuss characters everywhere you looked in South Elementary School on Wednesday, March 8, as the school celebrated the American writers birthday by dressing up as their favorite story star. Students as well as staff members donned outfits depicting the Cat in the Hat, the Lorax, Thing One and Thing Two and Cindy Lou Who.

Photos by Chris Paul

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Town and State Rep Take Aim at Google Use of Image

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

It started as a harmless prank and got resolved with a single e-mail.

Republican State Rep and Londonderry resident Alfred Baldasaro's wedding picture of himself, his wife Judy and her bridal party was taken down from Google this week after six months to a year of being the default photo for Londonderry Google searches.

Baldasaro said the photo was taken as a gag at his wedding. A friend, State Rep John Burt, had joked with Baldasaro at dinner a week before the wedding. "They were saying I probably wasn't going to show up," Baldasaro said. Burt arrived at the wedding with a trunkful of guns, and Judy Baldasaro and her attendants did a comic photo with the women holding the guns. "It was a joke about a 'shotgun wedding,'" Baldasaro said.

He entered into wedded bliss and thought it ended there. But a Democratic state rep, Peter Smith of Manchester, found the photo and re-Tweeted it. "It went wild, it went viral," Baldasaro said in a phone interview this past Wednesday. He and his family were attacked, he said.

When Baldasaro began touring the country with

then-Presidential candidate Donald Trump, he attracted a lot of attention, both positive and negative. People began Googling "to see who I was," he said, and Google put the wedding photo at the top for searches for "Londonderry."

The wedding photo brought a lot of hits to Londonderry, but while Baldasaro is a proud Second Amendment supporter, it wasn't the kind of attention he wanted. He only found out about the photo being on Google last week, he said, and he told his wife about it when she came home.

Judy Baldasaro works in GIS mapping, often with Google, and she immediately got on her computer and fired off an e-mail to the company.

"The next day it was taken down," Baldasaro said.

Town Council Chair John Farrell said the photo was brought to his attention six months to a year ago. "We reached out to Google," he said of the town, "and other people reached out to Google on multiple occasions."

Google told them, "This is how search engines work. This is what comes up."

The photo drew attention from the regional and national media, including Fox 25 News and the New

York Times.

Most recently, Farrell said, the Council directed Attorney Michael Ramsdell to correspond with the General Counsel for Google.

Ramsdell wrote in part, "The town council is unconcerned about people's opinion of Rep. Baldasaro, the firearms or anything else that might render the photograph remarkable to others. The town council is concerned, however, that regardless of the image the photograph creates in viewers' minds, it is not one that fairly represents the town of Londonderry."

"We did not receive a response," Farrell said. "That was about a month ago."

Farrell said the town's stance and request isn't reflective of an anti-gun position. They simply believe Londonderry could be better represented. "We would like to see something with more of a New England look and feel," he said, and reeled off suggestions: Mack's Apples, the Town Common, one of the historic churches, or even the nationally-known high school marching band.

"We appreciate their efforts and are happy they responded," Farrell said.

As of March 12, the image on the google link was no longer there.



A photo taken in 2013 at Al and Judy Baldasaro's wedding reception was somehow linked to the Londonderry New Hampshire Google page.

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Editorial

Read Across America Week

March is marked in many local schools as Read Across America month, and celebrates children's author Dr. Theodor Geisel, better known to the world as Dr. Seuss.

Dr. Seuss's birthday is March 2, but this is the week when most celebrations are taking place. And true to the famed children's author, school activities focus on reading.

While Read Across America Week was created by the National Education Association, no matter what people think of unions, we hope everyone can agree on the importance of reading, and of reading to children early and often. Whether it's dressing up as the Cat in the Hat, creating green eggs and ham, serving as a "celebrity reader" in a local elementary school, or just cuddling up to your child to read a bedtime story, Read Across America reminds us of the importance of what could easily become a lost art in the rush of life today.

There's not a more important factor in future success than the ability (and the desire) to read. Most of us take our ability to read for granted and don't remember how we learned, but we use the skill everyday. Research shows that kids who spend time reading recreationally perform better in school, and whether it's by reading traffic signs or employment applications, college textbooks or exam questions, reading follows us through our lives.

But Read Across America isn't just for kids.

There is great enjoyment to be had from sitting by a warm fire or relaxing by a pool and letting a good book transport you to another world. There is also great enjoyment to be had from learning something new from an informative nonfiction on your favorite figure or subject. Whatever the genre, there's nothing quite like getting lost in a good book. But this habit starts young.

If your child's school asks you to spend a little extra time reading at home, go for it. In the midst of our busy, out of control schedules, it will be time well spent. While you're at it, schedule a trip to the children's room at your local library. Seeing an entire building filled with books can open up yet another reading experience for your youngster.

So whether it's from Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) time in class, or awards given to students "caught" reading during the school day, Read Across America Week underscores the importance of the simple act of picking up a book and getting lost in its story. You can read on your phone, you can read on a computer, a paper and best of all, you can read a book.

And when you read to a child, you're building memories for both of you. As Dr. Seuss wrote, "You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pickup a book and read to a child."

Letters

Crossing a Line

To the Editor;

What ever happened to ethics and morality? When did it become ok to accept outright false statements and half-truths from elected officials sworn to uphold the laws and Constitution of the United States? What happened to people taking responsibility for their actions?

Trump has crossed the line too many times to count. Without any evidence he accused former President Obama of wire-tapping Trump Tower, something a president does not have the power to order. Even fellow

Republicans called his claims baseless. He blames his generals for ordering the raid that resulted in the death of Navy SEAL Ryan Owens. Fact is, Trump ordered the raid to proceed while he was having dinner with his son-in-law. As Commander-in-Chief, he is responsible for all military actions. If there were any doubt, the raid should have been postponed. Trump is so afraid of failure, he is now taking steps to shift blame for future military actions. By giving the Pentagon full authority to order military strikes, even extending this power to field commanders, Trump will

no longer be responsible if things don't go as planned. If a mission is a success, he will take credit but if a failure, he will claim he had no knowledge. Is the President of the United States the Commander-in-Chief or not. Hey Donald, no matter what, the buck stops with you.

Then there was his comment about the length of the applause Navy SEAL Ryan Owens' widow received during Trump's State of the Union, as if it was a reality show. What an insult. What ever happened to ethics and morality?

Steven Zeichner
Londonderry NH

Londonderry Times welcomes letters of up to 500 words on topics of local interest, written by local residents, and prints as many letters as possible. Please e-mail your letters to the Londonderry Times at londonderrytimes@nutpub.net. All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number for verification if needed; name and town of residence will be printed. Londonderry Times reserves the right to reject or edit letters for content and length, and anonymous letters will not be printed. Deadline is 5 p.m. Monday.

Marching Lancers Heading to Big Apple for St. Patrick's Day

The Londonderry High School Marching Band & Colorguard will leave for New York City on Thursday, March 16, to perform in the 255th NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade on Friday, March 17th. This will be the Lancers' 22nd appearance in the past 24 years, since 1993.

The N.Y.C. St. Patrick's Day Parade began in 1762 and is the oldest in the country. The event takes place on 5th Avenue, is 6-hours long, and includes over 150 bands and drum & pipe units. Many International musical units are included as well. Over 150,000 participants including firefighters, police, military personnel

are involved in this colorful event which is broadcast live on NBC-NY from 12-3:00pm. The Marching Lancers are honored to be invited each year to participate in this nationally acclaimed event.

The Marching Lancers will also perform in the upcoming Manchester St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 26th which begins at 12 noon. This year in particular, the Lancers have the distinct honor of hosting the President of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses, Lance Tibbet and his wife Amelia, who will be accompanying them in the Manchester parade. This is in anticipation of the Marching Lancer's

upcoming participation in the 2018 Rose Parade where they will be represent NH and New England for the 5th time. Only 12 High School bands from different parts of the country are invited each year to participate.

This has been a busy year for the Lancers with a recent performance on ice for the Manchester Monarchs, a drumline performance for the Boston Celtics, and numerous parades in both NH and MA.

Happy St. Patrick's Day from the Londonderry HS Marching Lancers.

For more information, visit www.lancermusic.org or call 432-6941 Ext. 2317.

Londonderry Times

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Election Results The Londonderry Times will post election results from both the Town and School District to our facebook page as soon as we are able to on Wednesday, March 22.

Welcome Spring with Little Critter at Leach Library

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Children's Librarian Jennifer DeVillar admits that nature can still throw a curve ball, even to well-organized librarians. "When we planned this program, we thought that it would be spring," she said, noting that her March 13 event came the weekend after setting the clocks forward. "But Mother Nature isn't done with us yet."

Though a nor'easter was anticipated for the following day, DeVillar's little patrons came out to hear stories of spring along with mothers, grandmothers and a few dads. Their patience, with the coming season and

the program, was rewarded with an appearance and photo ops with "Little Critter," the endearing boy monster from Mercer Mayer's classic books.

"I see a lot of shamrocks and green and spring colors," DeVillar said as she looked out over her audience.

"There's an old saying, 'March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb,'" she continued. She showed off a cuddly stuffed lion and said, "At the end of the program, someone is going home with this as a raffle prize."

DeVillar began the program by playing the sound of a robin's song, causing a silence to fall over the children. She fol-

lowed with books about springtime, including one book, "In Like A Lion, Out Like A Lamb."

"March comes in with a roar, it rattles our windows and scratches our doors," DeVillar read. But at the end of March, she read, "The air is full of chickadees and bumblebees."

"I don't like bumblebees," one little boy informed her. "I got stung."

"When Spring Comes" talked about the trees as "black sticks against the sky" and how they would eventually burst into bloom. She showed a picture of a melting snowman and talked about how eggs will become birds and seeds, flowers.

She read about Little Critter and his "green, green garden," sketching the process of buying seeds and "baby plants," of Dad renting the plow and the kids picking up stones. "We weed, water and wait," she read. "We weed, water and wait some more." The last page showed the sweet reward, with the whole Critter family sitting down to a dinner from the garden.

Using an overhead projector, DeVillar had the children guess silhouetted shapes of spring, including a balloon, ice-cream cone, duck, bunny, bird, bicycle, frog, flower and kite. She followed with a song about March and colorful scarves, waved to imitate kites.

A life-sized "Little Critter" emerged from a back room, and he joined DeVillar and the kids in waving the scarves. He later posed for photo ops



Grandmother Lyn Micklovich holds Makenzie, 2, as they and Madison, 4, visit with children's book character Little Critter in a Leach Library event this past Monday. Photo by Kathleen Bailey

Voting

Continued from page 1

that would limit people's ability to vote."

"It was not worth the aggravation," Rice Conley said in a separate phone interview

In a conference call with Town Attorney Michael Ramsdell, Rice Conley said, Ramsdell made it clear that he did not see any legal challenges to changing the date.

"My feeling has always been," she said, "that no matter what you decide, 50 percent of the people are going to be happy with it and 50 percent will be unhappy."

Sauer said absentee ballots would be available when the Town Hall opened again on Wednesday and that when the word got out that the town might be postpon-

ing the election, more than 400 people came to the Town Clerk's office to fill out absentee ballots.

"The people who came in were the ones who know what's going on and are interested," Rice Conley said.

Sauer thanked the Town Clerk's office and staff for their extra work in processing the absentee ballots and effort to accommodate the postponed date.

As of Tuesday morning, Fire Chief Darren O'Brien was knocking on wood. "We have not had any serious accidents yet," he said. One single-car crash into a guardrail on Route 93 brought the driver to Elliot Hospital with minor injuries, but other than that, people were staying off the roads, according to O'Brien.

"Schools are closed,

businesses are closed or closing early," he said. The Londonderry Town Offices closed for the day, and the only town employees at work were police, fire and the DPW, O'Brien said.

"People took the warning," he said.

As of Tuesday morning, O'Brien didn't know if he would have to open the emergency shelter in the Londonderry High School gym. "The ALERT team is on standby, and they are ready to be called at any point in time," he said.

But for the most part, O'Brien said, people are "hunkered down" and waiting out the storm. "They're just hoping to get through it," he said.

Since the snow was not a heavy, wet snow, O'Brien held out hope that "there won't be a lot of power losses."

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Voted Down

Continued from page 1

identified three major areas of concern: trash and recycling bins, a meeting with staff, police, fire, the developers and the Department of Transportation, and talking to DOT about the "failed intersection" at Stonehenge and Route 28. Trotter reported that in a meeting with Waste Management, it was confirmed that the trash compactors would be adequate.

In the traffic meeting, First Londonderry proposed adding a right turn lane at Stonehenge and Route 28. Other "mitigation" would include an electronic speed limit sign and better drainage to prevent icing in the winter.

A letter from the DOT confirmed that with the improvements the intersection would still be "in failure," meaning that wait times for turning at peak hours exceeds the acceptable time limit.

While the development team and town staff asked for a traffic light at the intersection, the DOT said that there is no current plan to construct a signal at that intersection, and that it was not part of the 10-year highway plan.

"The DOT supports the proposed mitigation, and recognizes that the intersection will still be in failure," Trotter reported.

The fact that the intersection is failing but still won't get a traffic light had many board members scratching their heads. Member Ann Chiampa said, "We need a signalized intersection. The action should

be immediate." She said she was glad to see the electronic speed signs, but said, "You cannot increase the burden on residents any more."

Chiampa also said she hopes police patrols will increase in the area.

"I still think there's a problem with the traffic," member Al Sypek said.

Jim Butler, the Town Council's representative to the Planning Board, showed photographs of a truck trying to turn around at Mammoth and Stonehenge, the other end of the road in question. The police logs show 14 accidents in 2017, to date, on this stretch.

"I cannot in good conscience vote for this," Butler said. "If they put in the right turn lane, it will still be in failure."

Board member Leitha Reilly said she understood the concerns. "I hear all that," she told her fellow board members. "But if it's not safe, why do we have professionals telling us it's okay?"

Planning Director Colleen Mailloux said that the consensus of Londonderry police and fire personnel was that the right turn lane would be an improvement, though the intersection will still be in failure. "It's not making the area any less safe," she said.

"We know it's a failed intersection," Mailloux said, adding, "The legal standard for a developer is that they don't make it worse."

At issue was the fact that the Zoning Board of Adjustment approved waivers for the project two years ago, under an ordi-

nance that is no longer valid

"The major obstacles were considered in a Zoning Board hearing two years ago," Town Attorney Michael Ramsdell told the board. "The developers sought and received waivers that made this project financially feasible and also met town requirements. The Zoning Board had no choice. It was a flawed ordinance."

Should the project come up before today's zoning standards it would not prevail, Ramsdell said.

Resident Al Lampson was the first speaker in the public comment portion. Lampson noted that the woods behind the proposed complex is a known area for hunting, and expressed concern about the safety of children in the complex.

Lampson also noted that the area behind the complex is a natural environment with a swamp, and he worried that while the catchbasins will collect runoff, that may cause the area to dry up.

Resident Don Kilgus returned to the traffic issue, noting that he's a runner and Stonehenge is his week-end route. "It is one of the most pedestrian-unfriendly stretches in town," he said. Kilgus cited the volume of traffic, the speed, the lack of shoulders and the limited visibility. The only reason he runs on Stonehenge, he said, is that Mammoth Road and Route 28 are even worse.

"You should try living there," CarolLynn Zimmerman, a resident of Rockingham Road/Route 28, said, citing the numerous acci-

dents she and her family have observed. They no longer put up a fence, she said, because it kept getting hit.

"I don't know why nobody's been killed," she said.

Zimmerman reminded the board that residents of the workforce housing project will want to go into Derry for Hannaford and Walmart, to eat at Applebees or to see a movie, thus adding to the traffic.

Resident Ken Parent said he's not against workforce housing, just against this spot for it. "It makes no sense," he said. Hardy Road and Stonehenge Road are already cut-throughs for people trying to get to 28, Mammoth Road or into Derry, he said. "What's going to happen when Woodmont comes in?"

Parent produced a copy of the Londonderry Times and cited three accidents in one week at Stonehenge, Hardy and Perkins roads.

Nutfield Publisher Debra Paul said, "It's too late and this project is a go-ahead, which saddens me deeply."

Paul said in her opinion the trash compactors wouldn't be adequate. She asked for a more precise definition of "ongoing" water quality tests, and observed that snow runoff, salt and sediment would over the years impact the groundwater and Little Cohas Brook.

"This developer should be held to higher standards, he has rights but so do the people who live here" Paul told the board.

Resident Keith Wheeler asked about the impact on Londonderry schools, and Mailloux said it was projected that the complex would produce 49 schooling students.

"What would be the impact of that on taxes? On teachers?" Wheeler asked.

Resident Cherylann Pierce asked for more information on the developers, noting that the developers own 23 properties in southern New Hampshire, and on the Secretary of State's Web site, three of those are listed as "not in good standing." Ramsdell explained that that could be the result of a merger or a name change. It does not tell the town anything about the condition of the property or how it's managed, he said.

A resident, Tiffany Richardson, brought a petition against the project with more than 600 signatures (see related story).

The meeting was boisterous, with audience members cheering or booing comments and applauding after speakers. Toward the end of the meeting, Soares had to repeatedly ask audience members to refrain from talking among themselves.

After almost four hours of deliberation, Soares concluded the public comment and brought the issue back to the board. Chiampa reiterated her concern about traffic. "There are flaws in the traffic study," she said. "I take my life in my hands when I drive that road. You don't have visibility turning on to 28, and adding a turn lane isn't going to

help."

But some board members wrestled with the fact that First Londonderry had fulfilled all the technical requirements for building on that site.

Member Ted Combes reminded the board and audience that First Londonderry had presented a complete application. "The state doesn't have money for the light," he said. "We're lucky they're willing to pay for the turn lane."

"I would love to vote 'no,'" Combes told the board and audience. "But legally they could take us to court and fight it" (see related story).

Sypek said, "I took an oath of office to go by the law, to go by the ordinance. I don't like this development. I wish the zoning ordinance had been different back then."

"I respect the studies, but they are just studies," Butler said. "They don't see what we see."

The first vote emerged as a tie, with Reilly, Soares and a reluctant Sypek voting in the affirmative and Butler, Combes and Chiampa in the negative. Audience members called for a second vote, and in the second vote, Sypek joined the "no's" to produce a majority. Members Scott Benson, Chris Davies and Kyle D'Urso were absent.

After the hearing, Council Chair John Farrell wrote in an e-mail that "a second legal opinion was sought and received over two years ago regarding the workforce ordinance for the past and the current ordinance."

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Police

Continued from page 1

level patrol officers. For higher ranks the department promotes from within. In the past 25 years, according to Hart, only one person has been hired at supervisory or command rank without being an internal candidate.

Hart wrote that the department holds its exam every year, at some point between late April and early June. Hart wrote that the test has two parts: a written apti-

tude test and a Physical Training (PT) test based on the entry requirements necessary to enter the NH Police Standards & Training Council (NHP-STC) Academy to train full time police officers.

He wrote, "LPD doesn't have as much trouble recruiting as other agencies. The trouble for us is in the applicant getting past the requirements to complete the hiring process."

"Most years we have over 50 potential applicants, and often that number exceeds 100," Hart wrote. "Generally some-

where around 10 percent of that total are already NH certified officers, who are only required to take the PT portion of the test. Of that original pool 40 percent or more on average fail the written test; another 30 to 40 percent then fail the PT test. So from that original hundred, we are left with less than 40 people." Those proportions tend to hold no matter the total number of applicants, according to Hart.

"Through the use of a weighting formula, we invite those applicants to an oral board, during

which each is questioned about a variety of topics; the goal is not so much to test a knowledge base as to take stock of how the applicant handles him or herself, how they handle stress, have they done some basic research into the department, the town, the area, etc. Following that five to 10 people are recommended to a command interview; that is with the three Captains and the Chief of Police. From that an annual list is drawn up and hiring decisions are made."

Assuming a conditional offer is made, a background investigation is begun including a polygraph exam, a psychological exam, a full physical and an in-depth review of a person's personal and professional history. "More than 60 percent wash out of the process at this point, almost all voluntarily," Hart wrote.

Almost always the reason is a New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council violation of rules, again, almost always illicit drug use or a pre-emptive Laurie concern. Hart said the Laurie concern is "an issue of credibility those would not allow that applicant to appropriately serve as a police officer."

When all is said and done, he wrote, the department has win-

nowed 50 to 100 candidates to one or two.

Hart added that the hiring issues are compounded by several recent issues. First, he said, today's young people are less willing to take on the challenges of law enforcement, or if willing, are unwilling to do the prep work. "We see that at every test: people are unready for the PT test; and in every background: people have often violated rules that prevent them from a career in law enforcement. That is compounded by the legislative eroding of once-important benefits necessary in drawing the appropriate personality type to this work: retirement cut-backs and the erosion of medical benefits," Hart wrote.

But to paraphrase Kevin Costner, Hart has built a good department and they still come. He wrote, "We think that is because of the word-of-mouth reputation of LPD as a good place to work." "Good place to work" is

more broad than simply pay and benefits, Hart added. It includes things like level of per capita training, a measurement in which LPD is anecdotally very highly ranked; the opportunity for specialized assignments, another in which LPD, while not Manchester or Nashua, is highly regarded among police statewide. The relationship between the department and community is also a very strong factor in drawing recruits, as are the general working conditions, according to Hart. "Finally, LPD is well known as a professional well-managed PD among police around the state. Londonderry PD is represented at the highest levels of police organizations," according to Hart.

Hart wrote that he had two vacancies at press time, two to be filled from a recent grant award and two new positions pending approval by the town in the March election. He also has two on deck to be hired from the last exam.



Hawks Care

South Elementary School staff members Diane Fisher and Pat D'Avella, at left, presented Kristie Nardini, the Director of Development at the Salem Animal Rescue League with a check and a collection of pet food and pet related items that students had collected. The gift was given during one of the schools monthly assemblies. Photo by Chris Paul

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Film Contest Puts Middle School Girls' Future in Focus

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

When Hannah McLinn was asked to don protective clothing before she went on the production floor at a Merrimack firm, the LMS eighth-grader knew she had found her niche. "I thought, 'I wanna do this!'" the video student and now aspiring filmmaker said.

Hannah was one of six LMS eighth-graders who won the statewide video contest sponsored by the New Hampshire Department of Economic Development, supervised by Creative Computing teacher Carolyn Roy. Their film, "What's So Cool About Manufacturing?" was shot at KMC, a Merrimack-based company manufacturing pieces for the medical field. The girls won the grand prize of \$1,000, and will meet Gov. Chris Sununu and the Executive Council on an upcoming trip to Concord.

Team members were McLinn, Hannah Ellis,

Emma Donnelly, Delaney Kearns, Isabella McCutcheon and Maddy Walden.

Roy's classroom is like other LMS classrooms with assignments written on a white board, vocabulary words and inspirational posters. But the assignments may very well be ideas for a "weather skit," and the homework to come up with a script, props and costumes for a short video. A "green screen" for shooting footage occupies a good portion of the room.

As she waited for her prizewinning team to come up from their last class, Roy said she created "Creative Computing" about four years ago. "It has morphed into a wonderful program," she said. The class is part of the eighth-grade curriculum under "Related Arts," and the students take it for 12 weeks.

"I wanted to create a class where kids can be creative and explore new technologies," Roy explained.

With only 12 weeks,



A team of Londonderry Middle School students won first place, and \$1,000, in a video contest sponsored by the New Hampshire Department of Economic Development. Front row, from left: Delaney Kearns and Hannah Ellis; and back row, from left; Emma Donnelly, Hannah McLinn, Isabella McCutcheon and Maddy Kearns. Photo by Kathleen Bailey

she can't spend a lot of time on film and video, she said. It's a component of a course that includes photography, stop-motion animation and some graphic arts, she

said.

Within that framework, she said, she tries to give the students an adult professional experience heavy on the soft skills. If an adult in the

school system has a video or graphic arts need, that staff member is invited in as a client. "They learn to shake hands, introduce themselves, take notes on the conversation," Roy said. "They learn time management and deadlines."

Among other things, her students have created a music video for the administration, which is shown frequently, and a piece on the transition from fifth to sixth grade.

When news of the state contest came out, Roy advertised for teams to enter. The winning group of six girls had already had her class and moved on, she said, but they filled out an application and were selected. They had to do the project as an extracurricular activity, Maddy Walden said.

They worked through lunches and after school, and sometimes even in the early mornings, Delaney Kearns said.

They were sidelined by weekends, vacations and three snow days in one week, but they made

the deadline, they said.

"It was both exciting and nerve-wracking," team member Hannah Ellis observed.

The girls and Roy went to KMC in Merrimack, took the ultimate field trip and interviewed and photographed the adults on what they do and how they do it.

They took turns with every facet of the project, with each of the six spending time on interviews, filming and editing, they said.

"We asked people what they liked about their jobs," Hannah McLinn said.

Delaney said, "Then we went through all our footage to see what we could use."

Isabella McCutcheon said she especially enjoyed having so much creative freedom. "We tried to make this unique from the other entries," she said.

The girls were invited by Roy to view the announcement of the winners, and they came in after A Period and saw the event on NHeconomy.com. The results were posted Tuesday, March 7, with Sununu announcing the winner. "When he said KMC Systems we all started screaming," Hannah McLinn said.

"It was like the Academy Awards," Delaney contributed. "He even had an envelope."

The state win has whetted each of the girls' appetite for more work in film and video, and possible careers. And Roy said, "Mrs. Robinson, who teaches film and video at the high school, already told me she wants you in her class."

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Local Reflections Winners Awarded at State Level



Elizabeth Roy



Megan Plaza



Rhyannan Finney



Emerson Dodge

CHRIS PAUL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The 2016-17 New Hampshire Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Reflections winners were announced last week on Wednesday, March 8 at Gilbert H. Hood Middle School.

With 31 PTA groups participating, and 1,643 pieces of artwork submit-

ted, it was no easy task to narrow the field down to 22 first place winners. Out of the over 1,600 artwork entries submitted 304 were judged at the state level.

The theme that each student used to create from this year was "What is Your Story?"

There were a great many creative locals that were given honors during

the event.

The first place winners will move on to national judging, and those winners will be announced in May.

South Elementary School fourth grade student, Elizabeth Roy, received a first place trophy and read her entry "Rose" to the audience in the Intermediate Literature category.

Megan Plaza, Mathew Thornton Elementary School second grader, received a second place ribbon for her Dance Choreography "Dancing by the Horizon" in the Primary Category.

Rhyannan Finney, second grader at South Elementary School, took first-place in the Special Artist category for "Sailboats in Maine." She

also received Honorable Mention for "Sparkly Water."

Emerson Dodge, South Elementary School first grader, received a third place ribbon in the Visual Arts Primary category for his "Happiness To Me Is..." Matthew Thornton first grade student Grace McElroy got Honorable Mention for "The Shining Stars." Also receiving

Honorable Mention was Travis Fitzpatrick from North School for his "My Story" creation.

In Photography, two Londonderry students received Honorable Mention. Rachel Hutchinson, fifth grade, of Matthew Thornton and Isabella Zemetres, third grade, of South School were both acknowledged.

Londonderry Mom Encouraged by Response to Petition

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

A young mother's second public petition in less than a year has her encouraged about the democratic process and making her voice heard.

The Planning Board hearing on the Residences at MacGregor Cut, resident Tiffany Richardson presented a petition with 625 signatures and comments from fellow

residents leery about the idea of an apartment complex at the junction of Stonehenge and Hardy roads (see related story). While she doesn't know how much influence her effort had on the board's ultimate 4-2 vote not to accept the project, she is heartened and encouraged at the response to the petition.

In a phone interview Saturday, Richardson said while she doesn't live in the Stonehenge/Hardy

neighborhood, she was concerned, as a greater Londonderry resident, about the potential traffic and the stress on the intersection with Stonehenge and Route 28. "The development on Perkins Road is almost done, and I couldn't imagine more development on that narrow road," she said.

She was disturbed when a Londonderry police officer spoke in a public hearing about the number of accidents at

the intersection. "That," she said, "really sank in." She talked with Nutfield Publisher Debra Paul, who also opposed the project, and her determination to do something grew.

Richardson was familiar with the petition process, having successfully mounted one last fall to have the North School area declared a "School Zone." But even she was

surprised at the response to the Stonehenge/Hardy petition. She had 625 signatures over a week and a half, and the comments alone would have filled 28 pages if she hadn't printed them on both sides.

I was happy to read the comments," she said, which ranged from traffic to water and well issues. "They validated what I was saying."

Richardson has health

issues and the first petition effort "took a lot out of me," she said. But she couldn't stay idle and watch the development come in, she said.

The two petitions and their results have bolstered Richardson's faith in the democratic process. And while she won't be looking for causes, she said, "if it's something that impacts the town, I'll keep fighting."

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Town May See Court Case in Stonehedge Project Vote

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The town of Londonderry may see a legal challenge after the proposal to build a workforce housing apartment complex was denied.

In last Wednesday's Planning Board meeting, board members denied the application of First Londonderry LLC to build 288 units at the junction of Stonehenge and Hardy roads (see related story). After a rambunctious public hearing lasting four hours, the board, in its second vote of the evening, denied the application, 4-2.

Member Al Sypek opened the conversation, saying to Town Attorney Michael Ramsdell, "I understand this is a controversial issue. What are the statutory obligations of the Planning Board? What can they do, what can't

they do?"

Under the current statutes, First Londonderry has met all the criteria for workforce housing, Ramsdell said. "If we don't have an identifiable reason to deny them, the developer will take the town and Planning Board to Superior Court."

Ramsdell warned that the town may be obligated not only for its own legal fees, but for First Londonderry's.

But even that is not the worst-case scenario, he added. "If the developer prevails, the court has the option of the so-called 'Builder's Remedy,'" he warned. The court will take jurisdiction over the project, the developers can build what they want, and the town has no say, he told the board and audience.

"They have met every 'hurdle' the town put in front of them," Ramsdell

said of the developers.

The liability is an issue, resident Richard Flier said in the public comment portion. "Did the town get a second opinion from a major law firm specializing in this sort of case?"

Board member Ted Combes asked Ramsdell for more specifics. "So you're saying if we go to court we'll lose?"

"If you deny the application, they take us to Superior Court and they prevail, a number of things could happen," Ramsdell said. "The court could remand the case back to the Planning Board. Or if they find the Planning Board in error, they could approve the development by default."

"The applicant has complied with the ordinance, received waivers from the Zoning Board and met all criteria," Vice-Chair Mary Wing Soares

said. "Legally, in Mr. Ramsdell's opinion, we do not have the ability to say no."

The applicants were seeking approval under a preexisting ordinance which has since been replaced, Planner Colleen

Mailloux said. Under the previous ordinance, if the town denied the application, "We wouldn't have a leg to stand on," she said.

Resident Cherylann Pierce asked if the town could get a second opin-

ion from a second attorney. Jim Butler, the Council's representative, said it was a "reasonable request" and that he would talk to the other four Councilors.



Youth Art Month

Londonderry's elementary schools celebrated March is Youth Art Month with a display of student artwork at the Leach Library's Children's Room. Youth Art Month is a national program that began in 1961 and is promoted by the National Art Education Association. This year, the district's elementary art educators and the library trustees formed a partnership in order to promote student achievement in the visual arts as well as visual arts education. About 20 works of art, representing grades 1-5, were chosen by the four elementary art educators to represent their respective schools. Students and their families viewed the exhibit at an Open House on March 7. It will be up through March 31. Pictured, are Brenna Langley of Matthew Thornton and Jack Collins, of South School posing next to the artwork of theirs on display.

Photos by Chris Paul

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LONDONDERRY SPORTS

LHS Boy Hoopsters Hit the End of the Road Early in Tourney

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Just before they met up in the first round of the Division I tournament early last week, both the Londonderry High School and Bishop Guertin High boys' basketball squads stumbled to the end of the 2016-17 regular season.

Both contingents lost three of their final four regular season games, with the LHS Lancers winding up collecting the eighth tourney seed in D-I with their 10-8 record and the BG Cardinals from Nashua ending up the number nine seed with their 8-10 mark.

The teams' lone regular season meeting happened way back at the beginning of the calendar year - on Jan. 6 at Londonderry High - with the host Lancers tallying a pretty pleasing and convincing 12-point win of 59-47. So heading into their opening-round tourney battle right back there at LHS last Tuesday night, March 7, the Lancers and Cardinals hadn't actually shared a court in two full months. And who might win the tourney contest was certainly anybody's guess.

But no matter how

much basketball one has seen and how much one knows about the game, it's sometimes close to impossible to predict what might happen. And that was the case with the opening moments - and the first half for that matter - of the Guertin crew's 64-57 defeat of the Lancers that evening.

Paced by the almost impossibly hot shooting hand of guard Clay Crowell, the visitors tore out to a 14-0 lead in the first 2 1/2 minutes and led by 21 points at 41-20 at halftime.

Londonderry would show its character, talent, and intestinal fortitude in battling its way back to within seven points late in the game, but a full comeback was not to be.

Guertin netted its first five shots of the game - with Crowell sinking no less than three, three-pointers during that run - en route to its 14-0 lead. The Lancers missed their first five shots from the floor and didn't score until Brandon Radford sank a couple of free throws with 5:01 left in the period. And the hosts worked diligently to climb back from their early deficit and trailed by 10 at 23-13 at the close of that opening stanza. Crowell

had 14 of his team's points in the period.

The Cards also won the second quarter quite handily, outscoring their hosts by an 18-7 margin to step into halftime holding that commanding 41-20 lead.

Jake Coleman and Ethan Garofalo each tallied nine points for Londonderry during the half for a total of 18, so Radford's aforementioned free throws were the only other points potted by another Lancer during the half.

"BG came out shooting great, and we missed defensive assignments in the first half," lamented LHS coach Nate Stanton. "Giving up 41 points in the first half is tough to overcome, especially in a play-off game."

Coach Stanton's squad showed its mettle in the second half by winning both the third and fourth quarters and outscoring its opponent by a 37-23 tally. But the Londonderry deficit still sat at 16 points (46-30) at the end of the third quarter, and the locals were never quite able to get within a handful of points of the lead.

"I thought in the second half we turned up our defensive intensity and

the guys fought hard to overcome adversity. Unfortunately, we ran out of time and we missed some key lay-ups and opportunities in the fourth quarter to close the gap," said Stanton. "In every game, and especially in the playoffs, you need to play for the full 32 minutes and play every possession like it's your last, and we didn't do that."

Guertin's Crowell wound up leading all scorers with 21 points, but Coleman closed out his high school career and added to his record number of career points by netting 20. Garofalo contributed 16, and Coleman's fellow senior Radford finished up with 12 points.



LHS senior big man Brandon Radford lofts up a shot during his team's tourney loss to Bishop Guertin last week. Photo by Chris Paul

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Londonderry Basketball Club Hosts Exciting Playoff Action

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The basketball courts at the Londonderry Middle School and North Elementary were put to all kinds of good use last weekend as the Londonderry Basketball Club held its recreational league playoffs for all competing age groups.

Saturday's single-elimination play hummed along at a brisk pace before Sunday's action, which featured some semifinal-round action as well as championship

play for many divisions.

Among the teams claiming championships were the Pink team in the third and fourth grade girls' league; the Purple crew in the girls' fifth and sixth grade grouping; the Purple contingent in the seventh through 10th grade girls' division; the Orange team in the boys' 3-4 class; the Yellow crew in the boys' 5-6 grouping; the Orange team in the boys' seventh and eighth-grade division, and the talented and determined White team in the boys' high school division.

Sunday's big contests featured some pretty stellar high school contests in which the White team bounded to its title with a 57-44 defeat of the Red team and a 59-42 besting of the Navy team.

Among the most noteworthy Saturday battles were a 32-31 squeaker of a success by the Navy Blue crew over the Red team in boys' third and fourth grade action; a 34-30 barn-burner of a win by the Yellow team over the Orangemen in the fifth and sixth grade boys' division; a 58-39 win by the

Dark Blue crew over their Gold opponents in the boys' seventh and eighth grade division; a 55-50 edging of the Maroon team by the Royal bunch in boys' high school play; an 18-13 success for the Pink contingent over their Dark Blue opponents in fifth and sixth grade girls' action, and a 35-20 success by the Light Blue bunch in a match with the Dark Blue crew in seventh through 10th girls' play.

More LBC playoff scores can be found on the group's website at www.LBCHoops.org.



The Purple team in the girls' seventh through 10th grade division defeated Blue and the Orange team bested the Dark Blue bunch in the boys' 3-4 class in the LBC playoffs on Sunday. Photos by Chris Paul



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Ex-Lancer Hoop Star Ball Hits the Heights in the NE-10 Tourney

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Talk to just about anybody who watched Cody Ball play during his illustrious four-year career on the Londonderry High School varsity boys' basketball team and a great many of them will doubtless tell you that the sleek and smooth guard was one of the most exciting young cagers they've ever seen.

And after helping to lead his LHS Lancers to an undefeated Division I hoop state championship - the first in program history - during his senior season of 2014-15 Ball moved on to the Saint Anselm College men's team and made his presence felt right away.

And Saint A's sophomore Ball - a member of the prominent Londonderry clan for whom the Ball Family Trophy was named and for which the LHS and Pinkerton Academy winter sports teams play each year - put forth some of the strongest games of his young collegiate career recently in helping his Hawks win the Northeast-10 Conference Championship recently.

Ball's efforts in his Manchester-based college team's tourney wins over Southern Connecticut State on Feb. 26, LeMoyne College of New York on March 1, and then Southern New Hampshire University on March 4 earned the talented local the NE-10 Tournament Most Valuable Player Award.

The former Lancer star netted a game-high 26 points to lead his second-seeded Saint Anselm contingent to a 73-68 defeat of the top-seeded

SNHU crew in the conference title contest at that Manchester school on the afternoon of Saturday, March 4.

In the semifinal battle with LeMoyne three days earlier, Ball had lofted home 21 points in a 71-68 edging of that opponent. And in the quarterfinal contest against Southern Connecticut State during the final days of February, the former LHS stalwart had also knocked down 21 important points.

After savoring their title success in the NE-10 tourney for a week and handling the hardware to their hearts' content, the locals moved on to the NCAA East Regionals at LeMoyne in Syracuse this past Saturday the 11th. And unfortunately for Ball and his teammates, their excellent 2016-17 cam-

paign came to a close with a 91-72 loss to the Saint Thomas Aquinas College cagers from Sparkill, N.Y.

That tough defeat notwithstanding, the former LHS star and his fellow Hawks put together a stellar 20-9 record and snared the NE-10 title.

Ball finished up with a scoring average of 13.2 points per game and shot at a 48.6 clip from the field and 42 percent from behind the three-point stripe. He also hit better than 90 percent of his free throws (90.3), averaged four rebounds per contest, and nearly two assists per game, while averaging a tad more than 33 minutes of court time per game. He started every one of the Hawks' 29 contests.

The self-effacing and

soft-spoken Londonderry High grad had his presence felt as a freshman on longtime Saint A's coach Keith Dickson's crew during the 2015-16 campaign.

Ball appeared in all 31 of the squad's games, making three starts and averaging 5.5 points, 1.9 rebounds, and 1.5 assists in 18.5 minutes per game. He scored a career-high 16 points twice on the year and averaged 11 points and 4.3 assists in his three starts.

Never a slouch in the classroom, Ball continued to show his academic abilities as a college freshman by being named to the 2015-16 Saint Anselm Fall Dean's List, the NE-10 Fall Commissioner's Honor Roll, the Saint Anselm Spring Dean's List, and the Northeast-10 Spring Commissioner's Honor Roll as well.

A great many folks within and outside of the Londonderry High basket-



Former Londonderry High and present Saint Anselm College basketball star Cody Ball received the Northeast-10 Tournament Most Valuable Player Award from NE-10 commissioner Julie Ruppert following the Saint A's team's title win at Southern New Hampshire University recently. Courtesy photo

ball community continue to follow the impressive exploits of Ball, and there were Lancers in attendance to cheer him on during the NE-10 Tournament as he showed off his considerable skills.

Athletes of the Week

Week of March 8



Katie Host, Junior, Spirit

This skilled and determined 11th grader has brought positivity, hard work, and fun to her team all season. Her impressive strength and showmanship have helped her team succeed at competitions.



Drew Chase, Senior, Wrestling

This Division I and Meet of Champions champ capped off his superb senior season by competing at the New England Regionals in Rhode Island, where he posted a 1-2 overall record against top competition.

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

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- PROVIDER ON CALL - PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Parkinson's disease develops gradually, often starting with a barely noticeable tremor in just one hand. But while tremor may be the most well-known sign of Parkinson's disease, the disorder also commonly causes a slowing or freezing of movement. Friends and family may notice that your face shows little or no expression and your arms don't swing when you walk. Speech often becomes soft and mumbling. Parkinson's symptoms tend to worsen as the disease progresses. While there is no cure for Parkinson's disease, many different types of medicines or procedures can treat its symptoms.

The symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person. Early signs may be subtle and can go unnoticed for months or years. Symptoms typically begin on one side of the body and usually remain worse on that side. Parkinson's signs and symptoms may include a tremor which is a characteristic shaking often beginning in a hand; slowed motion which over time may reduce your ability to initiate voluntary movement and may make even the simplest tasks difficult and time-consuming; rigid muscles often occurring in your limbs and neck which can be so severe that it limits the range of your movements and causes pain; impaired posture and balance that may become stooped as a result of Parkinson's disease; loss of automatic movements such as blinking, smiling and/or swinging your arms when you walk; speech changes where you may speak more softly, rapidly or in a monotone, sometimes slurring or repeating words, or hesitating before speaking; or dementia occurring in the later stages of Parkinson's disease.

Many symptoms of Parkinson's disease result from the lack of a chemical messenger, called dopamine, in the brain. This occurs when the specific brain cells that produce dopamine die or become impaired. But researchers still aren't certain about what sets this chain of events in motion. Some theorize that genetic mutations or envi-

ronmental toxins may play a role in Parkinson's disease.

Risk factors for Parkinson's disease include age, heredity, sex or exposure to toxins. See your doctor if you have any of the symptoms associated with Parkinson's disease. Although Parkinson's disease can sometimes be difficult to pin down, getting an accurate diagnosis is the key to starting appropriate treatment that may help delay or manage symptoms for years.

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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Lady Lancer Spirit Squad Snares Fourth at D-I Championships



The Londonderry High spirit squad put some more challenging moves into its routine for the championships in hoping to advance in the standings.



LHS first-year varsity spirit coach Chelsea Dennis was extremely proud of the work of her talented charges at the D-I event. Photos by Chris Paul

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Coach Chelsea Dennis and her Londonderry High varsity spirit squad knew perfectly well that if they were intent on making some hay at the Division I championships at Pinkerton Academy this past Sunday, March 12, they'd need to put some safe moves aside and step out onto the proverbial limb.

And after qualifying as the fifth and final Division I entry in the opening round of the spirit championships right there at PA in Derry a week earlier, the Lady Lancers challenged themselves with some more difficult

moves than they usually attempt and it paid off with a top-four finish and a tally of some 97.5 points.

"Overall, I'm incredibly proud of them," said coach Dennis, in her first year as the head varsity mentor after serving as an assistant to Becki Barden for several years. "We decided to put in more difficult moves to increase our chances of moving up, and they nailed those more difficult parts of the routine. There were a few slips, but they handled the more difficult parts well."

The Lady Lancers seemed unshaken by the fact that they were per-

forming before a virtual standing-room-only crowd in Pinkerton's Hackler Gymnasium, and their routine grew loud applause from the gathered throngs.

The Londonderry contingent included seniors Marissa Ciano and Ally Morris, juniors Sara Berte, Meghan Evange-

lista, Katie Host, Erin Kelly, Victoria Kelly, Kaylie Longua, Hannah Martin, Taylor Mellinger, Allie Nadeau, Alison Rose, and Cassie Stuart, sophomores Nikki Brunelle, Katie Hughes, and Katelyn Leger, and freshmen Ashley Greenwood, Sam McCarthy, Meghan McHugh, Caitlyn Czekans-

ki, and Arianna Squeglia.

To the surprise of precisely nobody, the host Pinkerton Academy Lady Astros claimed their eighth consecutive winter spirit title and their 13th since 2004 by tallying an impressive team score of 107.3 out of a possible 110 points. Concord finished second with a 102.6, but

LHS coach Dennis and her Lady Lancers had plenty of reasons to be pleased with the fact that they moved closer to the top of the Division I mountain with some strong work in a pressure situation in front of a big and spirited crowd. And nobody should be surprised if they keep right on advancing.

LHS Unified Hoopsters Fall in Tourney Round Two

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High School unified basketball squad had a truly excellent 2016-17 season by just about any measure. But it's pretty plain that coach Ann MacLean's Lancer crew would have liked to have gone at least a bit further in the state tournament recently.

After posting an exceptional 7-0 record during the regular season, the second-seeded LHS

contingent drew a bye in the first round of the tourney.

And when the Lancers did finally get to take the court for a tournament game, it was their own home court for a second-round match with the 15th-ranked Spaulding High Red Raiders from Rochester last Thursday, March 9.

But the Londonderry High crew's hopes of a state championship withered on the vine that day, with the Red Raiders returning to Rochester

with a 44-24 upset victory to celebrate.

The New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association's unified sports program - which has special needs athletes playing with support from their mainstream peers in a number of sports throughout the three high school athletic seasons - has been tremendously successful for years now. And during this winter campaign, no less than 44 schools state-wide had hoop teams competing. So to finish seeded second with a perfect regular season record is quite a feather in the caps of coach MacLeod and her

charges.

The Lancers, whose roster included players Abby Ellis, Kierra Wright, Will Boyle, Gio Cafaro, Annie Hughes, Jocelyn Mayo, Kaitlyn Quirk, Nathan Gadzik, Brianna Ho, Skylar Tarmey, Brian Boyle, Hannah Kennedy, Christian Paulenka, Noah Ellis, Ali Kraytenberg, Ryan Shields, Olivia Graham, Katie Meuse, Sam LeClair, and Brigid Kennedy, notched no less than four double-digit victories during the 2016-17 season, including a pair of memorable and highly-pleasing blowouts of the arch-rivals from Pinkerton Academy.

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Lancer Gymnasts Get Eighth Spot at New England Meet

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Getting the chance to compete against some of the very best teams in all of New England is one of the things which all New Hampshire high school girls' gymnastics squads would love to do.

And after finishing an extremely close second at the New Hampshire Division I championships during the middle of last month, the Londonderry High Lady Lancers spent most of the next four weeks preparing to compete at the New England Championships at Woodstock Academy in Connecticut last Saturday, March 11.

The host Woodstock

Academy team won the regional crown with a score of 150.825. The 2017 New Hampshire D-I champion Pinkerton Academy Lady Astros were the top Granite State finishers, ending up fifth overall with a 141.450, with Londonderry finishing eighth out of the 10 total teams with a score of 136.875.

A month earlier at Pinkerton in Derry, the host Lady Astros managed to edge coach Heather Tuden's LHS crew by mere percentage points (138.65-137.925) and replace the Lady Lancers as Division I champs. But by finishing first and second, both teams qualified to move on to New Englands.

There at the regional

championship event in Connecticut last weekend, the Lady Lancers snagged seventh places on the uneven bars (score of 34.00) and on the balance beam (tied with Pinkerton at 32.950) as a group and eighth places on both vault (34.400) and in the floor exercise (35.525).

Maddie Croteau and Cassidy Williams competed in all four events for Londonderry, Mira Kutney took part in the vaulting and on bars and beam, Taylor MacKenzie competed on vault and floor, Seana Kelly was a competitor on bars and beam, and Camille Lamont represented her team on floor.

Croteau wound up a



Lady Lancer Maddie Croteau finished a strong 22nd out of 110 athletes at the New England Meet.



Cassidy Williams gained some vital experience by competing as an all-around at the New Englands.

fine 22nd in the all-around out of some 110 total com-

petitors with her score of 35.350. Her teammate

Williams ended up 30th overall with a 34.550.

Lady Lancer Softball Camps Scheduled For Three Sundays

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Some good opportunities for young softball players in town to improve their skills and gain some vital insight into their sport arrive in the coming weeks with no less than three sessions of Londonderry High Lady Lancer Softball Camps at the Londonderry Middle School.

The pre-season camps, which were formerly run by the Londonderry Lightning softball organi-

zation and are open to players ages six through 17, will now be directed by longtime Londonderry High softball coach Wayne MacDougall and some of his Lady Lancer players and their special guests. The objective of the camp is to prepare players for the forthcoming Londonderry Athletic Field Association and school seasons, and LAFA coaches are also welcome to attend.

MacDougall and his Lady Lancers - along with guests like Londonderry

Middle School softball coaches Brendan Burns and Joppa Fransch and members of the Lightning and New England Fusion softball organizations - will work with players focusing on proper batting, fielding, base-running, and pitching techniques.

The camps are slated to take place on March 26, April 2, and April 9 from 4-6 p.m., with a check-in time of 3:30 each of those days.

All players will be asked to bring their own

glove, bat, and helmet and to wear sneakers rather than cleats as the sessions will take place indoors in the LMS gym.

Londonderry High softball coach MacDougall has decades of softball coaching experience at the local school on both the sub-varsity and varsity levels. Although he retired from teaching math at LHS a number of years ago, his love for softball is more

than plain when it's known that he keeps coming back to the school each spring to coach his varsity Lady Lancers.

The cost for each softball camper is \$50, and registration can be conducted at www.LAFA.info, with payment being made

either on-line or in person.

Further info can be obtained by contacting former LAFA and Londonderry Lightning director and New England Fusion founder Pete Misiaszek at 275-9905 or mizzy3410@comcast.net.



Londonderry Baseball offers players 8-12 years old an opportunity to play Cal Ripken baseball on 70' diamonds.

All interested players should email Londonderry Baseball at admin@lafa.info

We will help you register online. All interested players must contact Londonderry Baseball by March 19th.

Have an Announcement?

This service is provided free of charge to Londonderry residents who wish to announce the birth of their child or grandchild, marriage engagement, wedding or milestone event such as a Silver Wedding Anniversary. This is a great way to share your news with your local community. The Londonderry Times also accepts obituary notices. Please contact us at 537-2760 or e-mail to londonderrytimes@nutpub.net.

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AROUND TOWN

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.

Brain Health

The Londonderry Senior Center will host a program on brain health Tuesday, March 28, from 9 to 11 a.m. Individuals may be tested for brain health, and there will also be tips for improving the brain's function. For more information, call Cathy Blash at 432-8554.

Learn about Robert Frost

A celebration of the life of poet Robert Frost will be held Monday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the Derry Public Library. Local historian Rick Holmes will speak. For more information or to register, call the library at 433-6140.

Go Back to the 50s

The Londonderry Lions Club will hold a 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s dance with Bobby and the Sharptones Friday, April 21, from 7 to 11 p.m. in the Lions Hall, Mammoth Road, Londonderry. Cost is \$20 per person, \$35 per couple. For tickets or more information call Jerry at 434-5307.

Blood Drive

The SportsZone in Derry will host a Red Cross Blood Drive Monday, March 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in its facility at 7 A St. Those 17 and older and in good health are eligible. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-828-1975 or visit redcrossblood.org and enter

the code SPORTSZONE-DERRY.

St. Patrick's Day Party

The Londonderry American Legion Post 27 will hold a St. Patrick's Day party with Bazooka Joe Saturday, March 18. The post is located at 6 Sargent Road in Londonderry. For more information visit the Web site at www.alpost27.com, call 437-6613, or visit the Greeley Parmenter Harrington Facebook page.

Legion Bingo

The Londonderry American Legion Post 27 will play Bingo at the Manchester VA Hospital Friday, March 27, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Members of the Londonderry High School Pay-It-Forward club will assist. For more information visit the Web site at www.alpost27.com, call 437-6613, or visit the Greeley Parmenter Harrington Facebook page.

Depression Workshop

In conjunction with The Upper Room, the YMCA of Greater Londonderry is offering the final workshop in a series for teens and their parents Thursday, March 23, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Londonderry Middle School, 313 Mammoth Road, Londonderry. "Depression - How It Feels To Be You" is the topic. The workshop is free; for more information or to register contact Lisa Fitzgerald, the "Y"

branch director, at 232-8640.

Traditional Music

The Leach Library will host Adam Boyce for his presentation, "The Old Country Fiddler: Charles Ross Taggart, Traveling Entertainer". Thursday, April 13, at 7 p.m. in the lower-level meeting room. Boyce will portray Taggart near the end of Taggart's career, c. 1936, sharing recollections on his life, with some live fiddling and humorous sketches interspersed. This program is free and open to the public with seating limited to the first 90 individuals. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call the library at 432-1132 or 432-1127.

Cinema Screening

Film screening of Cinema Twain, a portrayal of Mark Twain written, directed, produced, and performed by Val Kilmer. Personal appearance by Val Kilmer with Q & A. Friday, March 17th at 7:30 at Stockbridge Theatre, Derry. Tickets and Information at www.valkilmer.com

Movie Night

A Young Adult Movie Time featuring "Through the Looking Glass" will be offered Thursday, April 13, from 3:30 to 5:45 p.m. in the Leach Library. Popcorn and beverages will be offered along with a raffle. The program is free and open to students in grades 6 through 12. For more information, call the library at 432-1132 or 432-1127.

Salute to Reading

Magician Steve Rudolph will be the featured performer at the Leach Library Children's Room Kick-off for National Library Week Monday, April 10, from 4 to 5 p.m. This program is open to 90 participants of all ages. Registration is required beginning Monday, April 3.

For more information, call the library at 432-1132 or 432-1127.

Book Bingo

Flower Power Book Bingo will be offered Monday, April 17, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Leach Library. Registration is required and begins Monday, April 10, at 9 a.m. For more information, call the library at 432-1132 or 432-1127.

Recycling Electronics

Londonderry Grange is holding our bi-annual FUNDRAISER to promote recycling electronics. Nominal fees range from: Electrical cords/wires (\$1) to CRT monitors (\$10), AC's, Microwaves, Dehumidifiers (\$16), TV's under 25" (\$15) TV's 27" - 32" (\$25) TV's greater than 32" (\$35). Everything in between is \$2 to \$7. Our partner is Recycle, USA L.L.C. Date is Earth Day - Saturday, April 22nd, 2017 from 10:00 am. until 1:00 pm. Enter from the horseshoe drive from Pillsbury Rd at 260 Mammoth Rd. Boy Scouts from Troop 521 will take your items from your vehicle. Grange members will total the fees. Checks made payable to Londonderry Grange No. 44 and cash are accepted. Please exit "right" onto Mammoth Road. We thank you for supporting your local Grange.

Model Railroad

The Seacoast Division of the National Model Railroad Association will hold Derry Fun Nights the second Friday of each month, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the Marion Gerish Community Center, 39 West Broadway, Derry. Topic in the March 10 meeting will be building structures from styrene. Those wanting further information may go to the Division's website at www.seacoastn-mra.org/calendar.

Race To Benefit Upper Room

After a successful inaugural launch last year, organizers of The Upper Room Race For Families (TURRF) are encouraging runners of all abilities to register and participate in the second annual event scheduled for April 9. The race is scheduled to begin at Pinkerton Academy's Hackler Gymnasium. Registration begins at 8 a.m., with the first wave starting at 9 a.m., according

to organizers. All proceeds will go to benefit the Upper Room. The 5K is \$20: 10k is \$25: 5k team is \$80: and 10k is \$100 To register go to lightboxreg.com/the-upper-room-race-for-families-turrrf.

"Galileo" Library Stop

A living history performance, "The Starry Messenger," will be held Thursday, April 27, at 7 p.m. in the Leach Library, Londonderry. Mike Francis will be the presenter. Francis will enact a dramatic, fun-filled adaptation of Galileo's short treatise "Siderius Nuncius." As Galileo dressed in 17th-century costume, Francis will give a public lecture on Galileo's most recent discoveries made using his newly-devised spyglass. Audience members are invited to participate in Galileo's many experiments and demonstrations. 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 the library at 432-1132 or 432-1127.

Register Now for Spring Sports

Registration is now open for spring sports at Londonderry High School. Those wanting to register may find the link to the online registration portal FamilyID at <http://lhs.londonderry.org/athletics>. Those wanting further information may call the athletic office at 432-6941, extension 2307.

Senior Breakfast

The Londonderry Senior Center holds a monthly breakfast with a speaker on the last Friday of the month. Cost is \$4 per person, and reservations are required. Reservations may be made at the front desk. The next breakfast is Friday, March 31. For more information, call the Center at 432-8554.

Fight Addiction

Narcanon provides screenings and interventions for those struggling with addiction and their families. For more information go to narcanon-suncoast.org/blog/the-power-of-an-intervention.html or call 877-841-5509.

Laugh It Up

A comedy night to benefit the Londonderry High

School lacrosse team will be held Thursday, March 16, beginning at 8 p.m. in the Tupelo Music Hall, A Street, Derry. A number of professional comedians will perform. There will be a 50-50 raffle. Tickets to the event are \$25 per person. For more information, contact Cris Navarro, cnavarro@allegrotech.com or 490-2525, or Chefyl Grant, nhclgrant@gmail.com or 247-5579.

Parents of Young Children Support Group

The Upper Room offers FROG, Families Reaching Our Goals, a support group for parents and caregivers of toddlers, Wednesdays from 9:15 to 10:45 a.m. in its facility at 36 Tsienneto Road in Derry. For more information or to register, call 437-8477.

Seniors Holiday Dinner

The Londonderry Senior Center will offer a St. Patrick's Day Dinner Friday, March 17, at noon. The dinner is \$5, members and \$15, non-members. Registration is required at the front desk of the Center.

Go Back to the Fifties

The Londonderry Lions Club will hold a 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s dance with Bobby and the Sharptones Friday, April 21, from 7 to 11 p.m. in the Lions Hall, Mammoth Road, Londonderry. Cost is \$20 per person, \$35 per couple. For tickets or more information call Jerry at 434-5307.

Dr. Seuss Month

March is Dr. Seuss's Birthday Month and children are invited to stop by the Children's Room in the Leach Library and play a Dr. Seuss matching game. They will be entered into a drawing for a Dr. Seuss-themed gift bag. For more information, call the library at 432-1132 or 432-1127.

Moose Man

Rick "The Moose Man" Libbey will speak on "Moose Moments In the Wild" Thursday, March 16, at 7 p.m. Londonderry Leach Library, events are free and open to the public with seating limited to the first 90 individuals. They are held in the library's lower-level meeting room. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call the library at 432-

March School & Town Meetings

Mar. 16	Old Home Day Committee Meeting	7 p.m.
Mar. 20	Town Council Meeting	7 p.m.
Mar. 21	Senior Resources Committee	6 p.m.
	Londonderry School Board Meeting	7 p.m.
Mar. 23	Heritage Commission Meeting	7 p.m.
	Budget Committee Meeting	7 p.m.
Mar. 28	Conservation Commission Meeting	7:30 p.m.
Mar. 30	Heritage Commission Meeting	7 p.m.
	Budget Committee Meeting	7 p.m.

Meeting held at Moose Hill Council Chamber at Town Hall unless otherwise specified

Continued on page 17

Around Town

Continued from page 16
1132 or 432-1127.

Free Meals

The following free meals are offered in March: March 16, Dinner at West Running Brook Middle School, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 1 West Running Brook Lane, Derry, 432-1350;

March 18, Dinner at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 63 East Broadway, Derry, 434-4767; March 19, Dinner at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 5 to 6:15 p.m., 1 Hood Road, Derry, 432-0004; March 26, Breakfast at Church of the Transfiguration, 9 to 10 a.m., 1 Hood Road, Derry, 432-2130; March 26, Lunch host-

ed by St. Jude Parish Community, 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM, at the Londonderry Lions Hall, 432-3333; March 31, Spaghetti Supper at First Parish Congregational Church, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 47 East Derry Road, Derry, 434-0628. Sonshine Soup Kitchen serves a free meal every weeknight from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Teen & Parent Workshop

The Upper Room, 36 Tseneto Road, holds the following free weekly support groups and workshops: Hour Power Lunch Time Workshops, Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Topics available on Web site. Parents of Teens, Thursdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m, Parents

of children 0-6, includes playgroup and/or childcare, Wednesdays, 9:15 to 10:45 a.m. Light refreshments and coffee. Teen and Young Parents (up to age 23), Wednesdays, 5 to 7 p.m., includes light dinner and childcare. For more information, call 437-8477 or visit www.urteachers.org.

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.

continued on page 18

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Londonderry Police Log

Selections from the Londonderry Police Logs

Tuesday - March 7 6:08 a.m. Criminal Mischief Investigated Bayberry Lane

10:41 a.m. Weapons Offenses investigated on Nashua Road at Dubowik Excavation. Seven units responding.

11:14 a.m. Welfare check results in arrest on Nashua Road. Name:, Paige Burton, 29, of Derry charged with three counts of Possession of Controlled/Narcotic Drugs.

6:26 p.m. Domestic Disturbance report results in transportation To Hospital on South Road.

Wednesday - March 8 11:30 a.m. Burglary Investigated on Winding Pond Road.

3:17 a.m. Shoplifting reported at Hannaford Food & Drug.

11:51 p.m. Fish & Game Violations reported and services rendered on High Range and Sherwood Roads.

Thursday - March 9 7:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Investigated on Litchfield and High Range Roads.

7:38 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Investigated on Nashua and Gilcreast Roads. **8:34 a.m.** Doned Wires reported on Harvey Road near Burton Drive.

1:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Investigated on

Mammoth Road near Foxglove Street

1:48 p.m. Juvenile Offenses responded to at Londonderry High School.

5:16 p.m. Responded to 911 call and arrest made on Winterwood Drive. David Spatola, 55, of Londonderry charged with four counts of Domestic Violence and Assault, Criminal Mischief (vandalism) and Obstructing Report of a Crime or Injury. **9:49 p.m.** Domestic Disturbance reported and Arrest Made on Abbey Road.

Friday - March 10 7:18 a.m. Serving warrant results in Arrest at Balmorra Drive, Windham. Lynn Dee Malone, 52, Windham charged with Theft.

10:01 a.m. Keeping the peace on Winterwood Drive. **4:41 p.m.** Motor Vehicle accident investigated at Rockingham Road and Commercial Lane.

4:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle accident investigated on Auburn Road near Poor Boys.

5:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle accident investigated on Rockingham Road at Stonehenge Road.

8:33 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident reported Vehicle Towed on Harvey Rd at G.A. LaFlamme Inc.

Saturday - March 11 6:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle

accident investigated on Davis Drive.

10:05 a.m. Domestic Disturbance reported and Peace Restored on Charlestown Avenue at STS Realty.

11:10 a.m. Serving warrant results in arrest on Valley Street, Manchester. Jared Larochelle, 24, of Manchester charged with Criminal Mischief (vandalism) and Criminal Trespass

5:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident reported Nashua Road at Home Depot.

Sunday - March 12 3:39 a.m. Motor vehicle accident reported, vehicle towed on High Range Road.

4:20 a.m. Overdose investigated at Wendy's on Nashua Road.

5:16 a.m. Motor vehicle accident reported, Vehicle Towed on Auburn Road.

10:49 a.m. Motor vehicle accident investigated on Shasta Drive at Nutfield Country Store.

2:54 p.m. Juvenile Offenses reported and services rendered Jefferson Drive.

3:43 p.m. Keeping the Peace needed on Winding Pond Road.

9:45 p.m. Violation of Protective Order investigated on Hardy Road.

10:02 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident investigated on Boyd Road.

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Kids Coop Theatre Celebrates Twenty Years with a Peach



The Kids Coop Theatre is Celebrating its twenty year anniversary this season and last weekend the group performed "James and the Giant Peach Jr. to crowds at the Derry Opera House in Derry. The musical was directed by Emily St. Louis, with musical direction by Ruthie Vinson and Choreography by Mary Sullivan. Director Mentors were Maureen Mansfield and Marilyn Olbricht.

Photos by Chris Paul



Around Town

Continued from page 18

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; Pre-K \$180 per month, three days and \$200 per month, four days. Applications and the LEEP Handbook are available 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.

Derry Garden Club Scholarship

The Derry Garden Club is accepting applications for the 2017 Derry Garden Club \$1,000 Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school student who will be attending an accredited college or university to pursue a course of study related to horticulture, forestry, bot-

any, landscape architecture, natural resources, earth science, environmental science, or any other related field. Information on requirements and applications are available through the guidance offices at Pinkerton Academy and Londonderry High School and at www.derrygardenclub.org/2017.html. Applications must be received by April 1.



LONDONDERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of RSA 33:3-d, the School Board of the Londonderry School District will hold a public hearing on March 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Moose Hill Conference Room, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, New Hampshire regarding the possible issuance of refunding bonds. The proceeds of these bonds would be used to refinance the District's General Obligation Bonds dated July 15, 2008 that are outstanding in the approximate principal amount of \$2,550,000 in order to achieve interest cost savings and to pay related costs and expenses.

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- Kitt and Cathy Plummer,
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