

Londonderry Times

March 8, 2018 ♦ Volume 19 – Issue 10

A FREE Weekly Publication



Forrest H. Pratt was presented the town's Boston Post Cane at the start of the Town Council meeting Monday night by Londonderry Fire Chief Darren O'Brien. Pratt retired from the Londonderry Volunteer Fire Department in 1976 after 30 years service. Photo by Chris Paul

Boston Post Cane Awarded to Resident Forrest H. Pratt

LORI COSTA
LONDONDERRY TIMES

At the Town council meeting on March 5, the town was delighted to announce who had won "The Boston Post Cane Award." This award is given to the oldest citizen of a town with certain stipulations. The requirements for eligibility are the oldest citizen of Londonderry, a United States citizen (nationalized or register voter), has lived in Londonderry for at least 30 years and currently resides here, and has been a contrib-

utor to the town of Londonderry in some way. This year, the prestigious award was given to Forrest H. Pratt at the age of 89.

Pratt has lived in Londonderry his whole life, the only years he was absent was when he went off to serve his country in the Air Force during the Korean War from 1950-1954. When he became old enough, Pratt joined the Boy Scouts and was certified as a Star Scout. Pratt was also awarded the Orchid Award during

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Griffin Road Purchase Made, Cross Farm Property Looked At

LORI COSTA
LONDONDERRY TIMES

After weeks of back and forth and discussions with their lawyer, the Town Council finally came to an agreement on the topic of the purchase of property on Griffin Road.

The deliberations had been brought to the town's attention in January and the council found themselves in negotiations with their lawyer on how to handle the situation. Many residents stepped forward to give their opinions on why this property should not be developed and why the wildlife is of importance to them. Ultimately, the

town reached a decision on the 66.9 acres on Griffin Road and purchased the property for \$720,000.

According to Tom Dolan, after many negotiations the town did receive an additional reduction in the price of the property during those talks.

Also during Monday's Town Council meeting, Town Manager Kevin Smith told the council he was approached by owners of the Cross Farm property to see if the town would be interested in purchasing property on their land. The owners have proposed selling land to the town that would mean the elimination of approximately 50

homes being built in the area. The developer of this land approached both Smith and the Conservation Commission in their interest of purchasing this land.

The Conservation Commission expressed that although the land is of value, they would not be interested in purchasing this land. Smith did not have an actual appraisal number, but the developer believed it was somewhere in the area of \$2.5 million.

Due to the conservation restrictions and the high price, the Conservation Commission felt it was a lot to pay for the

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Complaint Filed with Attorney General on Election Signs

By KATIE O'DONNELL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The innocent looking yard signs scattered through town promoting local candidates may not be so innocent after all. The New Hampshire Attorney General's Office reported that it received an inquiry about local election signs being out of compliance with state regulations. The majority of candidates running in Londonderry did not have all of the state mandated information on their yard signs, prompting a mad dash to update them in time to adhere to the request made by the attorney general's office.

According to RSA 664:14, which dictates the rules around political advertising, "in the case of printed or written matter, the signature and address of signer shall be printed or written in a size of type or lettering large enough to be clearly legible." This means that the name and address (or campaign website) of the person who paid for the sign needs to be clearly printed and visible. That person doesn't need to be the candidate, but in small town elections, it usually is.

Town Moderator Bob Saur said he received a call from the attorney general's office only last

week about the issue.

"I was made aware last Friday by the attorney general's office" that the signs were not in compliance, said Saur. More specifically, the signs of one person in particular.

Richard Tracy, an investigator for the attorney general's office, reported that School Board

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Londonderry Women's Club Helps Parents by Fingerprinting Students



Moose Hill Kindergarten students were visited recently by members of the Londonderry Women's Club to fingerprint the youngsters in case there is ever an emergency and they needed to be identified through fingerprints. The Women have been performing this for over 30 years at no cost to the families.

Photos by Chris Paul

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Council Names Farrell Deputy Tax Collector

LORI COSTA
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Town Council took a vote on Monday that declared Town Clerk Sherry Farrell the Deputy Tax Collector for the town of Londonderry. According to Town Manager Kevin Smith, the appointed Tax Collector can nominate a Deputy Tax Collector. Tax Collector Diane Mulholland

nominated Town Clerk Sherry Farrell. Mulholland expressed to the council why she chose to nominate Farrell for the position. "I think Sherry will do a good job and I appreciate her help."

Chairman Tom Dolan made a motion to confirm the appointment of the Deputy Tax Collector and Sherry Farrell was confirmed by a 3-0 vote by

the council.

Vice-chairman John Farrell, who is the husband of Sherry Farrell stepped down from voting.

The appointment of Sherry Farrell will also grant her another \$5,000 in addition to her about \$49,000 for her part-time position as Town Clerk.

The duties of the Deputy Tax Collector are

assigned by the Tax Collector. If the Tax Collector becomes incapacitated at any point, then the deputy would serve during that time. The deputy also possesses the powers to perform the duties of the Tax Collector and should be paid as the town meeting shall decide according to the New Hampshire Department of Revenue.

Paid for by Martha Smith

Elect

MARTHA LIFF SMITH
FOR
TOWN CLERK



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Town Council Takes Up Londonderry's Leash Laws Again

LORI COSTA
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Over the past few weeks, there has been controversy on when exactly a dog should be kept on a leash in a public park.

Although a dog may be perfectly behaved and listen to its owner when it is called, it may be a concern for residents who's dogs are on a leash.

The Town Council was brought this issue at their

last meeting about updating the rules for dogs to be kept on leashes in public parks.

This issue currently is that people do wish to let their dogs run around and get exercise, but it may be a disruption to other dogs that need to be on a leash.

Londonderry resident, Brian McDonald expressed his wish that there be a sign posted on every town owned park entrance in Londonderry

and not necessarily on the trails and to be considerate of others.

The proposed sign was read by Chairman Tom Dolan. "ATTENTION DOG OWNERS: Per (Fill in the Blank) Ordinance, all dogs are to be leashed at all times on public property unless under the direct control of the dog owner. Direct control means the dog immediately comes to the owner when called. Please be

courteous when walking your dog. If your dog is off leash and you see another owner walking his/her dog, put your dog on leash. If both parties agree, the dogs can go off leash. The intent of this notice is to remind people to be courteous of others. It is understood that people bring their dogs to the park and let them run off leash, but please be considerate of others. Not all dogs get along with other

dogs, and some people are scared of dogs. Please keep this in mind and leash your dog as needed."

Vice-Chairman John Farrell felt the sign was great as long as somebody reads it and hopes that people would naturally put their dog on a leash if there was an issue. Dolan also agreed with the sign that McDonald wrote, but felt it was too busy for a sign. The

Chairman then suggested to "clean-up" the sign so the meaning is there, but fewer words for a sign. After this, the council can conduct a public hearing on whether or not to accept the sign for park entrances.

A dog park for Londonderry was originally in the works a few years back, but unfortunately was never followed through to become a reality for dog owners.

LHS Makes Some Noise for Music in Schools Month

MELISSA BETH RUIZ
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The vast majority of teachers and parents across the country believe that budget cuts in music programs hurt their students, says the NAMM Foundation, a supporting organization of the National Association of Music Merchants. Despite this, more than 1.3 million pre-secondary school students and about 800,000 high schoolers go without music programs or classes throughout the United States.

Studies have shown that students who study music tend to have larger vocabularies and more advanced reading skills than their peers who do not participate in music lessons, and schools that offer music programs have an attendance rate of 93.3% compared to an 84.9% in schools without

them. Furthermore, it has been observed that students who study and make music get along with their classmates better and have fewer discipline problems, and more of them get into preferred colleges.

While an overwhelming amount of data points to music classes being essential for learning, the risk of losing these programs altogether often boils down to funding priority to core classes such as English and Math – two subjects that cannot be cut from any curriculum. Though measures have been taken to keep music in schools across the country, many districts continue struggle to keep funding and support for music and the arts do to lack of awareness of the issue.

The month of March has been dubbed "Music In Our Schools Month" by

the National Association for Music Education. Beginning as a single statewide Advocacy Day and celebration in New York in 1973, Music In Our Schools Month has grown into a month-long annual campaign to engage music teachers, students, and communities in promoting the benefits of music education programs in schools. Schools around the country celebrate this campaign many different ways, often having concerts and performances around this time.

Londonderry High School promises to bring music to the community's ears with a busy Music in Schools Month.

"We've got three concerts to celebrate the month," said LHS band, orchestra, and jazz director, Serge Beaulieu.

Beaulieu said that the high school would be holding one concert per

week starting on Wednesday, March 14th, along with a performance at the UNH Jazz Festival on Saturday, March 10th, and a Coffee House on Friday, March 16th.

The three district concerts will consist of the District String Concert on Wednesday, March 14 from 7 to 8 p.m., the District Choral Concert on Wednesday, March 21 from 7 to 8 p.m., and the Band-O-Rama on Wednesday, March 28 from 7 to 8 p.m.

According to Beaulieu, current LHS music director, Andy Soucy had originally intended for Band-O-Rama to include the elementary and middle school band students along with the high school band, but it had grown so quickly that there soon wasn't room to accommodate all of the students at once. In recent years, the concert

has included the Londonderry Middle School 8th grade band to play alongside the three LHS concert bands.

Beaulieu said that the Coffee House being held in the Londonderry High School cafeteria on Friday, March 16 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. will include pop, rock, and folk music. The Coffee Houses at LHS feature student musicians from each grade level, and in recent years have been filmed by the students of the LHS video production program working under staff and students from the New England School of Communications from Husson University.

Beaulieu stated that attendance at the schools' performances was vital in keeping Londonderry's thriving music programs strong.

"I think that a lot of the elements of the (music) program are similar to athletic activities," Beaulieu said, "in that there is a lot of team building and confidence building, dedication...it's real important for people to understand that."

For more information on and resources for Music In Our Schools Month, visit nafme.org. For more information on upcoming events in music at LHS, visit www.lancermusic.org

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Editorial

Democracy Calls, Get Ready to VOTE!

This year's town and school elections are right around the corner with Election Day landing on March 13.

In the days between now and then, we hope you'll listen to candidates speak, read their words, and hey, this is New Hampshire call them up and ask them what they think about the issues that concern you.

Take knowledge to the polls, we urge you to make your vote an informed one. If people have made the effort to offer their time for public service, we owe them, at the very least, enough interest to pay attention to their words and if their words fail to add up to anything specific, to go back and ask more questions.

Then make an educated decision when you cast your ballot. There's no excuse for not knowing your candidates for local office. After all they're your neighbors.

And while you're at it, pay attention to the warrant articles that face you whether it's the school budget or a request for funding for roadwork or protecting your wetlands, purchasing conservation land, building a fire station or a school reconstruction project.

Town and school requests should be handled the way you handle your checkbook if can you afford it? Is it a necessity or a luxury? Is it something you can put off, or is that a false economy that will cost even more later on?

This year's election has attracted, a choice among candidates, so make your vote an informed choice. If people have made the effort to offer their time for public service, we owe them, at the very least, enough interest to pay attention to their words and if their words are platitudes and generalities, to demand answers to the tough questions.

The March Election Day has no state or national candidates on the ballot. That's traditionally bad news for voter turnout, a particularly sad situation when you consider that you have far more impact on local government than you ever will on the state or federal level.

It's time to read up on the candidates and make up your mind on how you will vote to get on the path to a better and more affordable tomorrow.

Voting takes little time, and it makes you part of a tradition going back to the founding of this country. There's not a much better way to express your patriotism than by heading to the polls.

Your participation benefits both you and your town.

So we issue a reminder: Election Day is March 13. For your own good and that of your community, please take the time to study the candidates and warrant articles, then go out and VOTE!

Letters

Vote Martha Smith

To the editor:

Dear Readers of Londonderry Times, I would like to encourage you to vote for Martha Smith for Town Clerk.

I have known Martha for many years and know that she is an honest and dedicated professional, who wants to serve our town.

Martha graduated from Boston College and Suffolk University Law School. She has been an attorney for over thirty years and knows the intricacies of the profession. She will be a welcome addition to Town Hall.

Martha has been a member of the Londonderry Women's Club for over 20 years and has served as president. She is involved in our community and I know she is honest, kind and full of integrity. Please vote for Martha Smith!

Eileen Sullivan
Londonderry

Support for Article 23

To the editor:

I would like to express my thoughts on why the citizens of Londonderry should support Warrant Article 23 for improving the lighting system at Nelson Road field. This is the only adult slow-pitch softball field in Londonderry and it is probably one of the most used recreational facilities in the town. The field is used every week night from mid-April to the end of October. During this time period, four different leagues totaling 27 teams use the field including approximately 350 current residents. The field is also used several weekends during this period to support youth and adult softball tournaments and other activities. Over the

years, a number of improvements have been made to the field without using any taxpayer funds. The initial lighting from the early 1980's as well as the updated light fixtures installed in the mid 1990's were funded by the leagues. In addition, other major improvements such as installing 10-foot outfield fencing with a warning track, a new infield, and a terraced spectator seating area behind home plate have all been performed by the leagues using the field. The current lighting system with its 37-year old 40-foot wooden poles and 20+-year old lighting fixtures do not meet the current lighting standards for adult softball fields. The current standards require 60ft to 70ft poles and lighting fixtures that are more energy efficient as well as reducing glare and spill light. The leagues will be offsetting some of the cost of the new installation by doing some of the preparation work but they do not have the expertise to elect the poles or install the lighting fixtures. If this warrant article passes, in addition to making the play safer for all participants, we expect that the energy costs to use the lights as well as the spill light and glare will be reduced 50%. The new system comes with a 30-year warranty and a free lamp replacement after 5,000 hours resulting in the town not having to incur any maintenance costs for these lights for the next sixteen years. This warrant article has been given the unanimous support of both the Town Council and Town Budget Committees. Looking at the growth in the town expected over the coming years it is hard to imagine that this improvement to the field

would not benefit the quality of life in our community. The one-time hit of 3 cents per thousand on the tax rate seems like a reasonable expense to have this improvement for the next 30 years. Please support Warrant Article 23 on March 13th. Thank you.

Jim Edwards
Londonderry

Re-elect Sherry Farrell

To the editor:

I urge you to vote on March 13th to re-elect Sherry Farrell Londonderry Town Clerk.

Sherry has lived in Londonderry nearly 50 years and she truly loves this community. She treats Londonderry residents with the dignity and respect they deserve and often goes out of her way to provide the highest level of service and always with a smile.

You can judge someone by their family and having known Sherry and her family for 20 years we are very fortunate to have someone with such integrity and sincerity willing to serve the community..

Please vote to re-elect Sherry on March 13th.
Andy Greco
Londonderry,

A Preventable Shooting Tragedy

To the editor:

The Parkland, FL shooter had a history of violent behavior. Police were called to his house many times, but they did not arrest him because the school board had an agreement with the police not to arrest any students.. The FBI received a viable tip indicating he wanted to shoot up a school, but the lead was

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Londonderry Times

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Letters

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not pursued.

The following are incredible: A student saw the shooter in a stairway loading his rifle, but did nothing to try to stop him when told "things are going to get messy around here". The student left the building, did not call 911, but informed a teacher. The teacher drove the student to a baseball field, and then went back to the school to check it out, but the shooting had started. Why did the armed deputy sheriff assigned to protect the school stand around during the shooting? If true, why did three police officers arrive at the school and take cover behind their vehicles, and not enter the school?

Arming teachers who are not trained to be police officers could be disastrous. What happens when a police officer enters a school during a shooting and encounters a teacher with a gun?

We should increase the age to purchase a firearm to 21. Most school shooters are under 21. We have to improve the background check system. Schools need to lock all entrances, and install shatter proof glass and alarms. A heavily armed security guard should be stationed in every school.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry, NH

Golden Rule Politics

To the editor:

Nationwide petty political bickering is out of control.

That mess has no place in Londonderry.

We live in an exceptional town where neighbor helps neighbor. "Hats off" to community members willing to run for office and serve our community.

This March campaign season should exemplify the community spirit which is "The Londonderry Way".

Pollyann Winslow
Londonderry

In Response to Letter

To the editor:

I would like to respond to a letter that appeared in the March 1st issue of the Londonderry Times submitted by Alex Apostol in support of Sherry Farrell. First, I have never met Mr. Apostol; he does not know me. If elected I would also serve on the Town Clerk's Legislative Committee. I would run the Town Clerk's office in an efficient and helpful manner. Serving the residents of Londonderry is very important to me. The work that Sherry Farrell does with the Senior Resource Committee is something I truly hope she will choose to continue. This is a committee of volunteers and not part of her duties as the Town Clerk. I take great excep-

tion to the last paragraph of Mr. Apostol's letter.

I do strongly believe voters deserve a choice at the polls. The position of Town Clerk is an elected position and I believe in Democracy. However, in addition to that fact I have lived in Londonderry for 35 years and I have been a New Hampshire attorney for more than 30 years. The Town Clerk must be versed in Federal and State laws and frequently interacts with various state agencies on issues of concern to Londonderry citizens. My experience and knowledge will be an asset to the Town and particularly to the position of Town Clerk. There is much more to my candidacy than running simply to provide opposition.

Martha Liff Smith
Candidate for
Town Clerk

Support for Katlyn Brutus-McKenzie

To the editor

I am voting for Katlyn Brutus-McKenzie because she has shown by completing and receiving two Bachelors Degrees and a Master Degree all in the education. At the same time she worked full time in the education field. The last 18 months she has been developing and operating "The Learning Tree".

A Londonderry business she owns and where she teaches Kindergarten.

She was raised in Londonderry and just bought first Home here. She will be an asset to the School Board.

Roger Fillio
Londonderry

Support of Martha Smith

To the Editor:

I have known Martha Smith for over 20 years. She is a good friend. Before her children started in the Londonderry schools I watched them for her while she was working as an attorney. Martha has been a New Hampshire attorney for more than 30 years. She is a smart, honest, knowledgeable and very capable woman. The Smith's have lived in town for 35 years and I am happy to call them my friends. I know she will make a great Town Clerk for the residents of Londonderry and she will be a great asset to our town. I urge you to go to the polls

on March 13, 2018 and vote for my good friend, Martha Liff Smith.

Paula Pastore
Londonderry

Vote Luisa Piette

To the editor:

I am writing to strongly endorse the candidacy of Luisa Piette for elected office as Londonderry Town Moderator in the upcoming March 13 local election. I am a long-time Londonderry resident, and work in Nashua, for a local housing corporation.

I have known Luisa Piette for over four years, and when she moved to Londonderry with her husband Matthew, our friendship grew stronger. Since becoming a Londonderry resident, I have seen her commitment to our town and the democratic process up close. She has been long involved in pre-election

efforts to encourage voters to exercise their right to vote in our state. She is a fair and charismatic leader with a wealth of experience working for both the U.S. government and the private sector. She holds a Master's degree in Law and a BA in Government. She also takes the time to meet neighbors and pursue her fitness and nutrition interests, in addition to being a terrific gardener, an interest that she and I share.

I endorse Luisa because our town would benefit immensely from her experience, charisma, communications skills and efficiency, if elected to the position of Town Moderator March 13. "I shall ensure the voting process works very well in this highly populated town, an integral part of our nation's primaries. No job in the world could be more important to me, if elected", said Luisa.

Bill Turcotte
Londonderry

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Senior Resource Commission Looks To Solve Transportation Issue

KATIE O'DONNELL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Senior Resource Commission has been trying to solve a perpetuating problem in town, how to get local seniors in touch with the resources they need to be able to live as independently as they can.

One of the largest issues discussed at the commission's latest meeting was the availability of transportation to seniors who no longer drive.

The town had voted on a warrant article last year to fund a pilot program between the Cooperative Alliance for Regional Transportation (CART) Program and the

Green Cab taxi company. As of the Jan. 16 meeting, it was reported that only \$2000 of the \$35,000 had been used to far, which are available until June.

There is a big difference between CART and Green Cab. Commission Chair Bonnie Roberts explained that CART is route based and Green Cab is more of an on-demand service. Arrangements with CART need to be made in advance so the service can accommodate the users.

"There are two different programs, and that's where people get confused," said Roberts.

The confusion has led to seniors not taking advantage of the pro-

gram. This, in turn, has caused the Town Council to believe that there is "no need" for the program if people are not using it, according to Town Council liaison Joe Green.

Resident Richard Flores described a negative experience he had trying to book his first appointment through CART. He said he wasn't able to get through to anyone and left a message, but was never called back. He said, however, he was successful at getting through the second time he needed a ride.

Senior Affairs Director Catherine Blash asked Flores why he did not tell her about his bad experience. He responded that

he didn't report it because he thought Blash and Town Hall knew about the poor quality of CART's customer service.

Green said that over the past year "they've cleaned up their act. It has not been like it had been in the past."

"When you bring in competition, sometimes that solves a lot of issues," explained Green.

Roberts pointed out that sometime the errors in communication are because those who use the program do not call to cancel when they no longer need rides, and that takes away from others who may need the service that day.

"Everyone likes to throw the dart at CART," said Roberts. "There's more than meets the eye."

Roberts asked if someone could look into what sort of questions CART asks of patrons before they use the service. There had been reports of seniors feeling uncomfortable with certain questions regarding financial statements and that made them not want to use the service.

Blash replied that she would call and ask herself to make sure "we communicate better and have a partnership" with the service.

"Once we know what they ask," said Roberts, "we can work with them."

Vice Chair Susan Hausler said "people want their independence."

John Goglia informed the commission that there are some other options the group could consider looking into. He and other members had been researching All American Assisted Living, the Student Bus Transportation Company, and

what other towns have been doing to provide transportation to seniors in their communities.

Blash said "it'd be nice if people called in more, so we would have the numbers." If not enough seniors call in to use the transportation program, it would be unlikely the town council would vote to continue to fund it.

"This unequivocally proved there is no need in their eye," said Green.

The commission then brainstormed what else could be done to spread the word about the program. One suggestion was to put cards in the mail along with voter and ballot information for next month's election.

Anyone with questions about CART, the Green Cab, or other transportation concerns can reach out to Blash at (603) 432-8554 or through email at cblash@londonderry.org.

OBITUARY

Jeannette I. Dick



Jeannette I. Dick, 97, of Manchester, died Tuesday Feb. 27, 2018 at the Catholic Medical Center in Manchester, after a brief illness. She was born in Nashua, on March 17, 1920, a daughter of the late Alfred and Bertha (LeBoeuf) Dumont. She had been a resident of Manchester since 2008, formerly living in Londonderry over 40 years as well as in Nashua and Derry. She was fortunate to have made many new friends these past ten years at her last place of residence, Regency West. Mrs. Dick had been employed as a cafeteria worker in the Londonderry school system for many years prior to her retirement. Her varied interests included cooking for Thanksgiving family gatherings, eating out, (especially going for lobster rolls in the Hampton Beach area), shopping, Walmart being her favorite spot. She was an avid reader and loved spending time with her family. She and her husband enjoyed many a long ride especially throughout Northern NH.

She is survived by her daughter, Cheryl Barnes of Palm Beach, Fla; her daughter in law, Kathy Williams and her husband, Dean of Manchester; five grandchildren; eleven great grandchildren; her sister, Lucille Dumont Stack, of Palm Beach Fla; as well as several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Bernard F. Dick in 2010, and her son, Wayne B. Dick in 1978.

Following cremation, a private memorial service will be held at the Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium, 290 Mammoth Rd., Londonderry. The burial will be in the Forest Hill Cemetery in E. Derry in the Spring. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Donor Services, P.O. Box 4072, Pittsfield, Ma 01202 or to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St, Framingham, Ma 01701. To send a condolence or for more information, please visit, www.peabodyfuneralhome.com.

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PVC Pirates Got Game: Currently 7th Out of 219 Teams

MELISSA BETH RUIZ
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The LHS Robotics team 1058 played to win at the FIRST POWER UP, the 2018 FIRST Robotics Competition, over the weekend of March 1-3. Despite some minor technical difficulties, the PVC Pirates showed exemplary skill and strategy, and most importantly, their ability to be team players.

"Start to finish the kids worked hard," said the Pirates' Mentor of Computer Aid Design, Strategy, and Business, Brendan Browne. He recapped the events of the competition, from the students getting right to work from the very moment they hit the pit Friday night, to their consistent placement in the top 10 throughout the event.

Browne explained that the Pirates had lost in the final round, as for the only time during the two days

it had been operating, the Pirates' robot had experienced a system failure.

"It literally went into the corner and said, 'I'm not playing anymore,'" joked Kenny Kutney, the Business, Outreach, Awards, and Software Mentor to Team 1058. He further commented on how impressed he was by how the students handled the crisis, going from dominating the competition to the sudden speed-bump which ultimately cost them the win.

"It can be a lot of disappointment," Kutney said, "But their spirit after was great! They were looking forward to taking the robot back to the shop, troubleshooting it, and seeing how they can improve. That's a wonderful thing from a mentor's perspective."

Though they did not go home with first place after the competition, the LHS PVC Pirates were pre-



Members of the Londonderry High School FIRST Robotics team the PVC Pirates. Courtesy photo

sented with the Gracious Professionalism Award for their efforts to help their allies from Wolfeboro, NH and Sharon, VT, as well as the teams they were in complete competition with. "(the award) is aimed at recognizing building each other up instead of working alone," explained Browne, adding that the Pirates were not only being recognized for

their gracious professionalism during the event, but also in their support for other teams in the community. Browne said that Team 1058 provides resources to help other teams with communication, with making parts, programming, and with crafting essays for award submissions.

"It was impressive to see them work to help

other teams," Browne went on, explaining that on the final day between the qualification and elimination rounds, the top teams are usually putting all of their focus in forming strategies for victory, but the LHS PVC Pirates put more of their energy into making sure that other teams had everything they needed to perform at their best.

"That's what FIRST is all about," said Kutney, "It's more about helping teams and sharing tools and experience than about doing what it takes

to win."

The next stop for the PVC Pirates Team 1058 is a second qualifying event to be held at Reading Memorial High School in Reading, MA from Friday, March 16 through Sunday, March 18. From there, Browne is confident that based on the events of last weekend, the Pirates would see the District Championship at Boston University.

For more information on the LHS PVC Pirates, and for a calendar of upcoming events, visit team1058.com.

Cross Farm Land

Continued from page 1

land. The value in the property is the wetlands and it is already being protected by the state of NH. Vice-chairman John Farrell felt that this land is of value to the Conservation Commission and

should let their agent have a conversation to get more information on this property. Chairman Tom Dolan also expressed the possible option of this being a "multiple choice" deal rather than an "all or

nothing" deal. The Conservation Commission felt the property is of value, but the price is too high for them to pay at the moment. Dolan also said the need for space in the future will be of importance, because of the possibility of a new elementary school, but if this property is in an age

restricted community, that would be a problem. Since there is interest from both the town and the Conservation Commission, the next step for the town would be to have their agent engage in talks to find out more information about the property and if the price may be lowered.

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Post Cane

Continued from page 1

WWII for his War Bond sales. Among his incredible achievements was the Firemanship Badge from the Boy Scouts. After this, Pratt joined a remarkable group of residents who volunteered their personal time to help put out forest fires in town.

In 1950, he joined the Air Force. Pratt showed to be a man of great courage and a hero to the country. Before he went into the Air Force, Pratt also had a hand in building the original fire station in North Londonderry. The Volunteer Fire Department needed a place to house their equipment for doing their job. After his time in the Air Force, Pratt

returned to Londonderry where he helped to train the new Volunteer Fire Department members. While Pratt continued to work as a volunteer firefighter, he also held a full-time job at Hermsdorf Fixtures and worked Saturdays for the Town of Londonderry's road agent on the road crew to help repair roads, building bridges, and plowing snow.

After being discharged from the Air Force, Pratt soon met the love of his life Marian Hall in 1954. They dated for six months and got married shortly thereafter. The couple then decided to start a family and welcomed three beautiful children into their lives, Brenda, David, and Belinda. Pratt

currently has five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren that he lovingly helps with their various projects. Unfortunately, Mariam passed away six years ago, but Pratt has expressed how grateful he is to have a loving family and wonderful friends who meet daily at a local Dunkin' Donuts to laugh and be there for one another.

Pratt was also given a personal letter of congratulations from Governor Sununu. The Boston Post Cane was then presented to Pratt by Town Manager Kevin Smith and Fire Chief Darren O'Brien. "The Boston Post Cane: The Londonderry Town Council presents this certificate as a symbolic representation to Forrest H.

Pratt given to the oldest citizen of Londonderry in recognition that at the age of 89, he is the oldest citizen of the Town of Londonderry. Signed and presented on the fifth day of March 2018." Town Manager Kevin Smith then stepped to the side and Fire Chief O'Brien presented the cane to Pratt.

"Thank you very much. I want to thank you all. I appreciate the cane," Pratt modestly said, after receiving the cane from O'Brien. Pratt's friends and family were then welcomed to a reception to celebrate his historic achievement.

The Boston Post Cane was last presented to Barbara Eaton, who passed away in 2015.



Londonderry State Rep. Al Baldasaro, right, reads a proclamation from Gov. Chris Sununu to Boston Post Cane recipient Forrest H. Pratt. Pratt's daughter Brenda Cunnen stands with him during the ceremony. Photo by Chris Paul

Signs

Continued from page 1

Moderator Cindi Rice Conley called in to inquire about the regulation. Tracy followed by saying the "initial complaint was against Martha Smith running for town clerk."

Smith's ads were not following the law by omitting her name and address as the person who paid for the signs.

"As I began to look into this, I saw Ms. Smith

was not the only one who did not have proper information on her sign," said Tracy. He also contacted Luisa Piette, who is running for town moderator, and Sherry Farrell, running for re-election as town clerk, about their signs being out of compliance as well.

"I don't think anyone in the past has put their names and addresses on their signs," said Saur.

He could not recall this being an issue in Londonderry in the last 30 or

so years, so he took it on himself to drive around town and see just how many of the candidates were not in accordance with the law. He said that out of all the signs around town, only one candidate had all of the proper information, but he declined to identify who.

Saur contacted all of the candidates and told them they had three days to update their signs with names and addresses. According to Saur, one school board candidate put stickers on his signs with his name and address

and cheekily added "but you already knew that" to drive home a point Saur made that "this isn't a big town. It's easy to find people."

"I'm really disappointed that this is what our town politics is focused on," said Saur.

Smith declined to comment, but Tammy Siekmann said Smith was very upset by the situation.

"The AG's people called Martha, she called me and she asked me what to do," said Siekmann. "I called Bob Saur and he took care of it."

Saur explained that when the candidates register with the town clerk, they are given a memo explaining where they can put their signs, but the information about the names and addresses is not in the memo. When asked why, Saur replied that "it's never been an issue before." He said the candidates are supposed to educate themselves on the rules and regulations regarding the election, but "they aren't experts on election law."

"Never in the past have we included" information about RSA 664:14, said Saur.

He even went to the local print shops who created the ads for the candidates and asked if they were aware of the regulation. The ones he spoke to did not know the law applied to local town elections.

One of the things that upset Saur was the fact

that so many of the candidates' signs are out of compliance, but only Smith's was brought up to the attorney general's office. Saur said he would understand "if a complaint had been filed calling out multiple candidates," instead of only one.

"I don't understand the motivation behind filing a complaint against one candidate when multiple candidates are involved," said Saur. "It's all about equity."

Making sure that all of the candidates were aware of the rules and the deadlines was of the utmost importance to Saur. He said "every candidate deserves a fair election."

"I feel embarrassed for Londonderry that we wasted the attorney general's time with this, especially because it was a selective complaint," said Saur. "I hope the town can return to a more equitable state."

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Seussical Kids Brings Magic and Morals To Life at North School

KATIE O'DONNELL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Prepare to think the things you can think with Horton the Elephant and his friends when the children of North School bring Dr. Seuss's classic characters to life in *Seussical Kids*. The *Jungle of Nool* will take over the Palace Theater in Manchester on March 20 at 7 p.m. The 30-minute show brings back the Cat in the Hat to tell the tale of Horton and his quest to not only protect the Whos of Whoville on their small speck of dust, but to also watch over an egg left in Horton's care by Mayzie La Bird.

Nancy Laporte, the music teacher at North School said it's a "great show to do in March" because it falls during the same month as Dr. Seuss's birthday. The beginning of March is also when schools throughout the country celebrate "Read Across America Week."

Laporte and her team of teacher volunteers have been getting their 87 fourth and fifth graders ready to take the stage for their friends and families with the help of Hunter Ulbin of the Palace Theater. That's nearly half of North School's entire fourth and fifth grade classes participating in the drama club. Ulbin is directing the show while Laporte teaches the music. The team also brought in choreographers to give the kids a more professional theater experience.

"It hopefully sparks some interest in them," said Laporte. "It's all about the whole experience."

Having so many students involved can be overwhelming, but Laporte is thankful for her group of volunteers who have been assisting her since before auditions. Every child that tried out made it into the show.

"We took everyone... so everyone feels important," said Laporte. "We never thought we'd have



87 kids, but it's working."

Most of the children in the show have never done theater before, according to Laporte. One of the benefits of participating in the drama club at North School, she felt, was having that opportunity to work with professionals at the theater and having exposure to the sets, the props and the stage, something they couldn't get from performing at the school. The club rents out the theater and Ulbin is paid through a stipend. The rest of North School will attend a matinee performance to support of the drama club.

"That's great commu-

nity building for the school," remarked Laporte.

The musical itself provides a lot of important lessons for children young and old. The audience learns about responsibility and faithfulness from Horton's adventures when he tells the audience "I meant what I said, and I said what I meant. An elephant's faithful, 100 percent." The story of Gertrude McFuzz stresses self-acceptance after her tail lengthening fiasco, while JoJo the Who teaches children to be true to oneself and that it's ok to be different. And who could forget the life lesson the Sour Kangaroo



The Londonderry North School cast of Seussical Kids has been busy over the past few months rehearsing for their performance at the Palace Theatre on March 20. Photos by Chris Paul

learns that you don't always have to see something to believe in it.

Laporte is excited to have her students present Dr. Seuss's most famous characters in a way most people have probably never seen.

"If you put the right kids with the right parts,

everything just falls into place," Laporte said.

The experience of putting on a play can be daunting for an adult, let alone a 9-year old. But in the tradition of Dr. Seuss, the journey to the stage has its own important message for the cast, one that Horton himself is

fond of saying, "a person's a person, no matter how small."

Seussical Kids will be performed at the Palace Theater in Manchester at 7 p.m. on March 20. Tickets are \$11 and can be purchased by calling the box office at (603) 668-5588.

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YMCA Kids Get Cooking During Winter Break from School



The YMCA of Greater Londonderry, a branch of The Granite YMCA hosted a Chef's Camp of the winter school break with those attending creating a multitude of fun food dishes. On Friday, March 2, children made "Magic Milk" and "Ice Cream Nachos" the nachos were made from flattened waffles.

Photos by Chris Paul



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LONDONDERRY SPORTS

Lady Lancer Basketball Squad Finishes Season at Pinkerton

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

In order to have any serious chance of upsetting the second-seeded Pinkerton Academy squad in the Division I tournament quarterfinals in Derry last Saturday night, the seventh-ranked Londonderry High girls' basketball squad had to be healthy, right on top of its game, and fully confident that it could defeat an opponent which had already vanquished it twice during the 2017-18 season.

None of those factors wound up being in place for coach Nick Theos' crew in their March 3 battle with the PA crew. And as a result, the Lady Lancers saw their season end with a 61-23 loss to that tough opponent.

The young Lancers had advanced to the DI quarterfinals with a 51-47 edging of the number 10 Exeter High Lady Blue Hawks at LHS on Wednesday night, Feb. 28. But in tallying that success, the Lady Lancers had standout sophomore forward

Colleen Furlong suffer a wrist injury which severely limited her in the Pinkerton game. And that was one important factor in the subsequent loss to the Lady Astros.

In the two previous meetings with the Lady Lancers, Pinkerton had posted rather lopsided victories both times with a 64-40 success at LHS on Jan. 26 and a 52-36 win in Derry on Feb. 9.

In the tourney match, the Astros hammered their way out to a fast start, hitting their first six shots from the floor while Londonderry struggled mightily, missing its first seven shots.

Pinkerton led 8-1 early, and when the first period had been completed the hosts were up 22-6. But PA suffered a pretty significant personnel loss during those eight minutes - at least temporarily - when star senior point-guard Amanda Lemire had her nose broken by an opponent's swinging elbow.

Lemire wouldn't return to the game, but her team wouldn't end up needing her. She will likely have to wear a protective mask during the Lady Astros' forthcoming semi-final-round game with Manchester Memorial.

Pinkerton put forth a stellar defensive performance and ended up holding Londonderry to a mere two points in the second quarter, grasping

a commanding 37-8 lead at halftime.

The Lady Lancers did a pride check at halftime and wound up outscoring their hosts by a 12-10 margin in quarter three, but the Lady Astros outscored Londonderry 14-3 in the final stanza to win by a full 38 points.

"We knew this would be a tough game to start with, but that doesn't account for just eight points in (the first) half," said Theos. "When you have a young team you can't miss easy shots, and we missed a bunch of easy shots."

Courtney Shay led the limited LHS offense with 11 points, and Michelle Marino was second with six.

The young squad had defeated Exeter by double digits in regular-season action on the seacoast back on Jan. 12, but the Lady Lancers weren't quite able to win as decisively in the more important first-round tourney contest on their home floor. Still, the youthful locals managed to advance for the rematch with PA.



Londonderry High sophomore hoop standout Courtney Shay weighs her offensive options during her squad's tourney win over the Exeter Lady Blue Hawks. Photos by Chris Paul

Londonderry held a six-point lead of 17-11 after one period, and the locals' advantage sat at 25-21 at the halftime break.

The Lady Lancers were up 37-32 rolling into the fourth stanza, and despite being outscored

by a 15-14 margin in the fourth Londonderry moved ahead to the quarterfinals.

The victorious LHS crew received 18 points apiece from stalwarts Shay and Marino, with freshman Ashley Rourke

Continued on page 15



Lady Lancer Katie Sullivan looks to get the ball past the outstretched arm of a Pinkerton defender during Division I quarterfinal play.

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Lancer Boys' Basketball Finishes its Regular Season Strong

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Every coach known to man wants to have their team playing in tip-top style going into its post-season competition. And Londonderry High boys' basketball coach Nate Stanton saw his Lancers close out their 2017-18 regular season in excellent fashion in aiming to be a legitimate title contender in the Division I playoffs.

The LHS hoopsters had distinct ups and downs during their regular campaign, but by vanquishing five of their last six opponents and all three of their last ones the

Lancers ended up at a strong 12-6 in Division I.

Londonderry was one of three contingents to finish with a 12-6 record, and Stanton's squad finished higher than both the Alvirne High Broncos of Hudson and the Winnacunnet High Warriors from Hampton by virtue of the fact that LHS bested both opponents in regular season play.

In its second-to-last regular season battle, Londonderry managed to be one point better than the Manchester Memorial Crusaders in a 59-58 decision at LHS on Tuesday, Feb. 27.

The Lancers stepped

into that contest facing an opponent which sat above it in the congested Division I standings, with Memorial boasting a 12-4 record and Londonderry at 10-6.

The hosts won the first quarter with a 13-6 lead. But Memorial kicked into gear and outscored its host by an 18-10 margin in the second period to hold a tiny, 24-23 lead rolling into halftime.

Londonderry won the third and fourth quarters by a 16-15 tally over the Crusaders in the third and by a 20-19 count in the fourth for the victory.

The Lancers, who were once again forced to play without skilled court general Cole Britting due to a knee injury, had three

players combine for 47 of their points. Ethan May led the offense with 17 and Dakota Bertrand and Jack Anderson each tallied 15.

Londonderry then hit the road for its final regular season game on Friday night at Nashua North, and the locals handed the host Titans their 14th defeat in 18 games in a 59-47 decision.

The number six seeded Lancers were slated to play Dover (11) at home in the first round of the playoffs on Wednesday, March 7, but weather was threatening to postpone that game.

The hope was that the game would be played either earlier that day or the following day.



Ethan May scored a team-high 17 points in the LHS boys' basketball squad's win over Manchester Memorial last week. Photo by Chris Paul

Athletes of the Week

Week of Feb. 26



**Michelle Marino,
Junior, Girls' Basketball**

This skilled, battle-tested veteran helped lead her Lady Lancers to a home tourney win over Exeter, netting 18 points and serving as a force on the boards. She also hit key foul shots down the stretch.



**Alex Boucher,
Senior, Wrestling**

This talented and determined veteran finished up his fine grappling career by placing a solid fourth in his weight class at the state Meet of Champions.

Student Athletes Supplied by Athletic Department

LHS Hockey Squad Finished in Quarterfinals

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Despite some serious come-backing work, the Londonderry High ice hockey squad saw its 2017-18 season come to an end with a 5-2 Division I quarterfinal-round tournament road loss to the Hanover High Marauders on Saturday, March 3.

The second-seeded Marauders grasped a lead of 2-0 after one period, and the seventh-ranked Lancers were able to slice that deficit in half during the first minute of the second period.

Hanover rolled its lead back up to two goals at 3-1 before that middle period concluded.

The Lancers then got back to within a goal of the lead a little more than six minutes into the third period, but the Marauders potted the final two goals of the day, with the second of those being an open-netter.

Lancers' senior forward Patrick McKinnon had the goal which trimmed the Hanover lead in half to 2-1, 54 seconds into the second period, and Patrick Murphy zinged home a sizzling wrist shot from about 20 feet out 6:05 into the third

to make it a 3-2 contest.

LHS goalie Cam Donovan contributed some 29 saves to his squad's season-ending effort, while Marauders' keeper Harris LaRock made 24 stops in helping to push his team forward in the tourney.

The Lancers had ended their regular season in fine style, winning three of their last four contests to wind up over the .500 mark at 9-8-1 and in that seventh seed for the Division I tournament.

Longtime Marauders' coach Dick Dodds' crew was obviously one of the stronger entities in D-I during the regular season, posting a 15-3 league

record and going more than a month - from Jan. 15 to Feb. 17 - without losing in posting an eight-game win streak.

That winning skein came to an end when the Marauders were bested by the top-ranked Concord High Crimson Tide twice in two days before Hanover ended its regular season by trouncing the other Concord high school, the Bishop Brady Green Giants, by a 5-0 tally.

Londonderry only met Hanover once during the regular season - back in December - with the Marauders handing the host Lancers a 4-1 defeat.

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Former Lady Lancer Basketball Standouts Excel in College Hoop

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Aliza Simpson, Brittany Roche, and Kate Balcom are all vivid threads in the rich tapestry that is the history of the Londonderry High School girls' basketball program.

And in the wake of their fine LHS hoop careers - which included membership on state championship teams for all three - the talented trio went on to play college basketball and be forces on their respective squads away from Londonderry.

Anybody who saw Simpson - who is presently finishing up her fine collegiate hoop career at the University of New Hampshire - play the game at Londonderry High will certainly remember it. She was a superb athlete who both frustrated and impressed opponents with her court-sense, basketball IQ, undeniable savvy, and considerable physical skills.

The 2014 LHS grad won Miss New Hampshire Basketball, New Hampshire Gatorade, and New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association Player of the Year honors during her final several years in Lady Lancers' red, white, and blue, but she was a force to be reckoned with for four



Aliza Simpson



Brittany Roche



Katie Balcom

straight seasons.

Simpson - who also starred in soccer for four years at the local high school - remains the LHS girls' hoop all-time assist leader and a member of the school's 1,000-point club.

This winter, Simpson has been working to complete her fine UNH career in the same kind of form which has come to be expected of her in Lady Wildcats' garb.

Through the Lady Wildcats' first 28 contests of the 2017-18 campaign, Simpson had helped the squad to a 17-11 overall mark and an 8-7 record in

the America East Conference. She played in 27 of those contests, starting 22 of them, playing 24 minutes per game and standing second in three-point shots made with 26. She was third on coach Maureen Magarity's squad in assists, steals, and three-point field goal percentage. The former LHS star averaged 4.5 points, 2.2 steals, and 4.7 rebounds per contest.

Among Simpson's top individual performances this season have been an 11-point, three-steal, four-assist effort in a 71-66 loss to Xavier and an 11-point, two-steal, seven-rebound

performance in a 58-53 downer against the University of Vermont. She also contributed seven points, four boards, and two steals in a 74-68 defeat of the University of Albany.

Meanwhile, up North at Plymouth State University, Simpson's former Londonderry High teammate Roche has overcome the loss of her 2016-17 campaign to an injury by having a superb 2017-18 season for the Lady Panthers' hoop crew.

The PSU squad hasn't had a great season as a group, posting a sub-par 7-18 record for coach Alli-

son Flynn through its first 25 contests. But who knows where the Lady Panthers might have been without ex-Lady Lancer Roche, who played and started 23 of those 25 contests and averaged 11.1 points per game (second on the squad), 27.8 minutes (third), 4.5 rebounds, an 82.5 shooting percentage from the free throw line, and 48 big three-point buckets.

Among her top offensive performances of the season were a 19-point

effort against Plattsburgh State in a 59-53 win, a 23-point game in a loss to Dartmouth, a 21-point performance against Lasell in a 55-47 win, and a 20-point effort in a 94-87 win over Western Connecticut.

And out in Pennsylvania at Grove City College, Balcom was a true standout for her Lady Wolverines' hoop contingent for a second consecutive season.

The sophomore forward helped her college crew to a superb, 17-8 record through its first 25 games by playing in and starting all 25 contests, averaging 11.8 points per game (second), 26.8 minutes (third), and 5.3 rebounds (third).

The former Lady Lancer stalwart - who was a five-time conference Rookie the Week at Grove City last winter - has put forth a slew of fine performances for coach Chelle Fuss' crew.

Among those have been a double-double of 13 points and 10 rebounds against Hiram, 22 points and seven rebounds against Penn State-Behrendt, 22 points and six boards against Geneva, and 18 points and six boards vs. Westminster.



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Ex-Lancer Basketball Star Cody Ball Hits 1,000 Hoop Milestone

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Former Londonderry High School basketball star Cody Ball has done some impressive things during the first three years of his collegiate hoop career at Saint Anselm College in Manchester.

And the highly-skilled junior guard went into the New England-10 Conference championship game in Syracuse, N.Y. last Saturday, March 3, needing to net 16 points to hit the huge 1,000 milestone for his college career.

Ball and his teammates didn't manage to win that big contest, but the ex-Lancer did in fact tally his 1,000th point, with just over six minutes left in the game. He became the third Hawks' player to manage that feat this season.

The 2015 Londonderry High grad - who famously led his Lancer boys' hoop team to its first-ever state championship in undefeated fashion early that calendar year - was also a vital part of a 2017-18 Saint Anselm contingent



Former Londonderry High basketball star Cody Ball hit the 1,000 point mark at Saint Anselm College last week. Photo courtesy Saint Anselm College

which bounded into last weekend's title game aiming remain the NE-10 champs by besting the host LeMoyne College contingent on its home court.

However, the Hawks ended up dropping a 69-63 decision to those LeMoyne Dolphins despite the fact that Ball managed precisely the 16 points he needed along with four rebounds, two

steals, and two blocked shots. The former LHS stalwart attempted half a dozen three-point shots and nailed four of them.

The former Lancer was named the Most Valuable Player of the 2016-17 NE-10 tournament last winter, and this season he earned all-conference recognition for the first time in his career recently while enjoying a truly stellar junior season.

Lancer hoop fans will have no trouble recalling Ball's long-distance shooting heroics in high school, and he has carried on with that kind of success at the collegiate level.

Going into the weekend title battle in Syracuse, biology major Ball was ranked fourth in the NE-10 in three-point field goal percentage (.448) and 20th nationally.

Furthermore, the 6-foot-3 guard had started all 29 of his 22-7 contingent's games, averaging 31.9 minutes, 14.9 points, 4.8 rebounds, and 1.8 assists per contest.

Ball ranked among the top three players on his squad in all of those categories heading into the title battle, and he was fourth in free throw percentage (77.8) at that juncture.

Among the standout guard's top offensive performances of the campaign were a 28-point

effort against Franklin Pierce and 25 and 24-point nights against Bentley.

In this year's NE-10 tourney, the former LHS star helped his Hawks advance by netting 19 points in 35 minutes worth of court time in a 93-86 quarterfinal-round win over Southern Connecticut State at Saint A's on Sunday, Feb. 25.

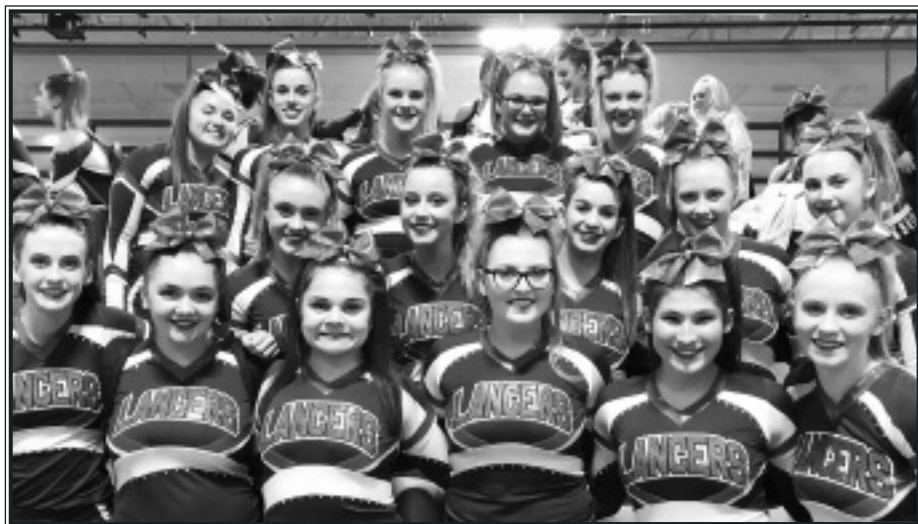
He wasn't as productive in the 87-80 semifinal win over Bentley three days later due to foul trouble, managing just five points but also hauling down five boards. His fellow junior guard Tim Guers of Langhorne, Pa., had a monster game in that one, netting 36 points to help the Hawks get back into the championship contest.

Stepping into the title game seeking those milestone-making points, Ball was certainly no stranger to hoop glory. The former

LHS team captain was the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association Division I Player of the Year during the illustrious championship campaign of 2014-15, leading all of D-I in points. He was subsequently named both Mr. New Hampshire Basketball and King of New Hampshire Basketball for that campaign.

The skilled cager comes from a long line of Ball family members who have contributed great athletic contributions to teams at LHS and Pinkerton Academy. As a result, those two schools named the award for their annual winter varsity athletic competition The Ball Family Trophy back in the early 1990's.

Ball hopes to one day play hoop internationally, but before then there are loads of folks looking ahead to enjoying his exploits on the court as a senior cager next winter.



On to the Finals

The Londonderry High School winter spirit squad placed third in the preliminary round of the state winter spirit championships at Pinkerton Academy last Sunday afternoon. The team will now compete in the title round back at PA this coming Sunday, March 11, at 11 a.m. The top five teams in the first round were Pinkerton, Concord, Londonderry, Dover and Salem. Courtesy photo

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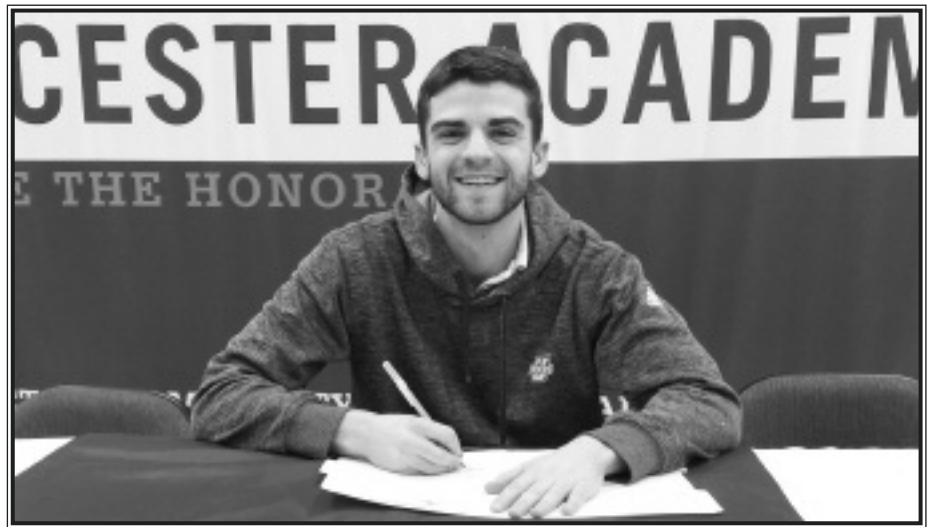
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Diving Into Success

Londonderry's Jon Furlong, left, was a member of the Georgetown University men's diving team which finished first at the Big East National Championships in Geneva, Ohio recently. Freshman Furlong finished a strong sixth individually at the major event. The Londonderry man, who is studying at Georgetown's Walsh School of Foreign Service, notched some 403.5 points with his dozen dives in the 3-meter competition. He is pictured here with diving squad teammates Griffin Edmonds, Matthew Werner, and Ryan Blom (from left).



Signing on the Line

Londonderry resident and Worcester Academy soccer star Graham Brenner recently signed his letter of intent to attend and play his sport at The University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Brenner will graduate from his current school this May and he intends to study business at the U-Mass Isenberg School of Business. The Londonderry man's soccer accomplishments include being named a Boston Globe All-Star and the Worcester Academy men's soccer MVP among numerous other awards. His fellow Worcester Academy soccer stalwart Anisha Hill, a native of England, was hosted here in the states by the Brenner family.

LHS Skiing Duo Competes Against State's Best at Meets of Champions

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Two Londonderry High skiing stalwarts tested their considerable skills and mettle against the very

best high school competition New Hampshire has to offer at the Meet of Champions at the Mittersill Ski Area on Cannon Mountain last Thursday, March 1.

Lady Lancers Breyton Evarts and Jordan Galluzzo both had moments of which they could be proud out on the almost balmy slopes that day. The competitors worked

the slopes in sunny, relatively warm, and wind-free conditions.

Evarts and Galluzzo had both played vital roles in helping their LHS girls' contingent to a

strong fifth place finish at the Division I state championships several weeks before.

At the Meet of Champs, Evarts finished 10th overall out of 54

competitors, ending up a superb sixth in the giant slalom and 14th in the slalom. Galluzzo ended up 35th overall, getting 31st in the giant slalom and 27th in the slalom.

Girls Hoops

Continued from page 11

contributing eight of them to the success.

"It was a tight game throughout," said coach Theos. "They press and trap for four quarters and try to get you to play at a pace that you're not comfortable with. We had to play smart but also be aggressive. Starting out, we beat their press and got easy lay-ups. Exeter changed things up and forced us to break the pressure more deliberately and took away the long pass. After the first quar-

ter we focused on the defense and stopping their post play. It wasn't easy because they have multiple six-footers, but Charlotte Sullivan and Michelle Marino did a great job in the post, slowing them down. On offense, we continued to attack the rim, where Shay scored most of her 18 points."

The Lady Lancers lost standout sophomore Furlong to her wrist injury, but both Rourke and Mia Fantauzzi did strong work in relief in breaking Exeter's pressure.

"In the second half we extended our lead to 12 points on big plays by Marino and a big three-pointer by Katie Sullivan. But being a young team, we let them back in down the stretch," said Theos. "But give the girls credit, they didn't fold and Marino hit two big free throws to push the lead to four, and then we leaned on them on the defensive end to hold them off."

The LHS coach wound up being quite proud of his youthful charges.

"It was a big test for

the girls, and to deal with adversity and still get the win was big," he said. "We need to learn to win in the playoffs, and tonight was the first step. I'm so proud of this group. They keep fighting no matter what, and that will help us going forward."

The young LHS squad began its campaign with growing pains, dropping its first four decisions before besting Trinity to move to 1-4.

The contingent enjoyed its longest regular-season winning streak during the span

covering Jan. 30 to Feb. 6, when it defeated Nashua South, Salem, and Winnacunnet in succession. The locals then won another three games in a row before the PA loss.

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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 londonderrytimes@nutpub.net.

Addiction Support Group

First Baptist Church of Derry offer a free support group for families affected by addiction at our church on Monday nights. "The Lighthouse is a faith-based support group for families who have been affected by addictive behavior. It's held on the ground floor of First Baptist Church, 44 Broadway, from 6:30 - 8 p.m. on Monday nights through April 9. Addiction counselors and others serve as facilitators for people to share their concerns about their loved ones in a safe, confidential small group setting. There is no charge. Open to all."

Free Meals

Community Meals Network; Please join us for free, family-friendly meals, served in a relaxed atmosphere. Dinner on March 11 from 5 - 6:30 p.m., at Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration 1 Hood Road, Derry, for more information call 432-2130; Dinner on March 17 from 5 - 6:30 p.m., at St. Luke's, 63 East Broadway, Derry, for more information call 432-3333; Dinner on March 18, from 5 - 6:15 p.m., at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1.2 Hood Road, Derry, for more information call 432-0004; Breakfast on March 25 from 9 - 10 a.m., at Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration 1 Hood Road, Derry; Lunch on March 25 from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., at St. Jude's, 435 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, for more information call 432-3333. Dinner on March 30 from 5 - 6:30 p.m., at First Parish, 47 East Derry Road, East Derry, for more information call 434-0628. For more information on any of the meals or our services please visit: freemealsinderry.blogspot.com

Legion Meeting

On March 12, the Londonderry Legion will hold

their Monthly General Meeting. All members are welcome to attend. Elections for the 2018 Executive Board will be held at the meeting. Located at 6 Sargent Rd., in Londonderry (behind the fire station on Mammoth Road).

Karaoke Night

Londonderry Legion will hold a Karaoke with DJ Sharon on March 16 starting at 7 p.m. Non-members interested in joining Post 27 are welcome to attend. Located at 6 Sargent Rd., in Londonderry (behind the fire station on Mammoth Road).

St. Paddy's Day Party

On March 17, the Londonderry Legion will hold a St. Paddy's Day Party with Bazooka Joe starting at 7:30 p.m. Non-members interested in joining Post 27 are welcome to attend. Located at 6 Sargent Rd., in Londonderry (behind the fire station on Mammoth Road).

VA Bingo

On March 26, Post 27 will be playing bingo with patients at the VA Hospital in Manchester from 7 - 8:30 p.m. We'll be serving pizza and diet soda as well as providing \$150 in prize money.

Blood Drive

Due to the recent severe storms there is an URGENT need for blood and blood products. With the current "Urgent" need for blood products, the American Red Cross needs all of our help to replenish the blood supplies. The Community Service Committee of Saint Jude Parish has scheduled this blood drive for Friday March 23, from 1 - 7 p.m. at the Londonderry Lions Hall 256 Mammoth Rd. in Londonderry. This is a new drive for us and we really need your help...Donors of ALL blood types are urgently needed to donate. In an effort to save you time, you

can register online www.redcrossblood.org or by calling the Red Cross 1-800-RED-CROSS (We encourage ALL donors to make an appointment to help us in planning). You can also use the RapidPass system the day of the drive to save time the day of your donation as well. For more information on donating blood, you may call the American Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS or for more information on this drive please contact Vinny Curro vincurro@comcast.net or 603-867-7472. Of course we will have homemade refreshments that our Saint Jude drives are known for...Thank you and we hope to see you there!

Basket Ball Tryouts

Granite State Raiders Basketball AAU Tryouts Saturday March 24. For 6th, 7th, 8th graders at 12 - 1:30 p.m., for 9th & 10th graders at 1:30 - 3 p.m., on Sunday March 25. For 6th, 7th, 8th graders at 8:30 - 10 a.m., for 9th & 10th at 10 - 11:30 a.m. At the Bishop Brady High School Any questions call 491-2495.

Model Railroading

Seacoast Division of the National Model Railroad Association is running their Derry Fun Night program. The program is held the second Friday night of each month, 7 - 9 p.m., at the Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 West Broadway, Derry. Dave Kotsonis will show his technique for carving rocks out of Plaster, small rocks outcropping or a full mountain range lean the steps of carving the rocks as well as how to prepare your base before you start to carve rocks, tips on painting rocks and how to add scenery and trees to your finished scene. If you are interested in model trains and would like to join other like-minded hobbyists from beginner to expert for a fun evening program come

to Derry Fun Night the second Friday of each month. For additional information go to the Division's website at seacoastnmra.org/calendar.

Bake Sale

The Londonderry Historical Society is having their annual Bake Sale on March 13, Voting Day, High School Gym. To support the Society please consider bringing baked goods to the Gym by 10 a.m.

New England Light-house Presentation

The Amoskeag Questers will host the New Hampshire Humanities presentation of "New England Light-houses and The People Who Kept Them" by Jeremy D'Entremont at the Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 West Broadway on Wednesday, March 14 at 10 a.m. The program is free and open to the public. For additional information contact Meredith Hatch at 434-8673.

Greater Manchester Lyme Disease Support Group

Hosted by David Hunter this group meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm at the: Bedford Presbyterian Church 4 Church Road Bedford. For more information call 660-3425 or email dhunter31@gmail.com

Aspiring Female Medical Professionals

On March 8, at 7 p.m., Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry, will hold a program on women in the medical profession. If your daughter is thinking about a career in medicine, please join us for a panel discussion by female doctors working in different medical specialties. Bring all your questions: "What's it like cutting into someone's stomach?" "How hard is it to get into medical/dental school?" "What if I got a C in geometry in high school?" "Will I really be able to manage a family?" Our doctors will be "on call" for you. The program is part of Etz Hayim's "Hot Topics, Cool Contemporary Stuff" continuing education program. It is open and free to the public.

Leach Library Hours

Library hours for the month of March are as follows: Mon. - Thur., 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Fri. & Sat., 9 a.m. - 5

p.m.

Small Space for Growing Fruit

On Thur., March 15 at 7 p.m., a "Small Space for Growing Fruit" hosted by Mr. David Quigley. The event is free and open to the public with seating limited to the first 90 individuals. It will be held in the Leach library's lower-level meeting room. Light refreshments will be served.

Movie Time

On Thur., March 8, from 3:15 - 5:30 p.m. for the Leach Library's Young Adult movie is The Adventurer: The Curse of the Midas Box. All participants in grades 6 through 12 will enjoy the movie, along with popcorn and beverages. In addition, at this special event, there will be a raffle for fun door prizes. No sign up is necessary.

Dragon Tales with Taco Dragon

Hear stories of dragons big and small on Mon., March 19 from 4 - 5 p.m. at the Leach Library. One lucky participant will win a very special dragon plush friend. There will be plenty of time for a hug and pictures with Taco Dragon. This program is open to 90 participants of all ages and advance registration is required. To register, stop by the Children's Room, or call 432-1127 beginning at 9 a.m. on Mon., March 12.

Spring Session 1 Programs

The Leach Library's Children's Room will be offering the following programs as part of Spring Session 1: Craft Time; Shake, Move and Read; and Toddler Time. Spring Session 1 will start March 21 and end April 12. Advance registration is required and begins at 9 a.m. on Mon., March 12.

Renew

Renew will be open Saturday, March 10 from 8 - 10:30 a.m. at Calvary Bible Church, 145 Hampstead Road, Derry. Arrive by 10 a.m. Renew will also be open every Thursday 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., please arrive by 11a.m. Derry residence not required. Renew offers free, gently-used apparel. Each household is limited to 20 of the newest items, plus a reasonable number of older items. Enter at the church

marquee sign. Donations of good condition, modern clothing may be placed in the donations bin by the door at any time. No donations of money are asked or accepted. For details, search for Renew Derry on Facebook, or email renew-calvary@gmail.com

Looking Good for Lou Gehrig!

2nd Annual Run for Healing for ALS, to raise funds for ALS and to highlight Israeli advances in research and treatment of this heart breaking disease. On Sunday, April 22 from noon - 3 p.m. is the Run/Walk for Healing for the whole family, even people who cannot walk or run can come and celebrate. The event will begin with an interfaith 'Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem' for Israel's 70th birthday. Our unity can multiply the power of our prayers. NH4Israel, a 12 year old, organization, is a committed group of Christians and Jews passionate about Israel. The event will take place at Etz Hayim Synagogue on Derry NH's Interfaith Campus 1/2 Hood Road, Derry. Please consider participating, donating, sponsoring and/or volunteering. For more information please visit NH4Israel.org

Londonderry Republican Committee

The Londonderry Republican Committee (LRC) has exciting news. We now have a new "home" for our meetings. The Victory Baptist Church under the direction of Pastor Tim Hawkins has graciously offered the use of their conference room for our monthly meetings. These meetings will be held there on the third Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m.

St. Gianna's Closet

St. Gianna's Closet provides free children's clothing to any family in the community that is in need. It is now well-stocked with sizes birth to teen as well as winter coats. Please contact Liz at 437-6678 to receive clothing.

Needle Crafts

Although the long winter months lie before us, the needlecraft books we have on display at Leach Library

Continued on page 19

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Londonderry Police Log

Selections from the Londonderry Police Logs

Monday - Feb. 26

11:43 a.m. Auto theft investigated at Penske Truck Rental on Jack's Bridge Road.

4:04 p.m. Services rendered medical emergency at Manchester Boston Regional Airport.

5:14 p.m. Motor vehicle accident investigated on Wiley Hill Road.

5:54 p.m. Services rendered during Neighborhood Disputes on Canterbury Lane.

6:47 p.m. Medical emergency on Devonshire Lane transported to hospital.

9:18 p.m. Assault at Executive Health Sports Center on Highlander Way results in transport to hospital.

9:55 p.m. Services rendered at Structure Fire on Noyes Road.

10:44 p.m. Suspicious activity reported at Red Arrow Diner on Rockingham Road.

Tuesday - Feb. 27

9:35 a.m. Five officers rendered service at sudden death on Holstein Avenue.

10:20 a.m. Motor vehicle accident investigated on Nashua Road at Avery Road.

3:35 p.m. Suspicious activity investigated on Nashua Road at Bank of America.

4:10 p.m. Assisted Londonderry Fire Dept. with transport to hospital from Judy Drive.

4:46 p.m. Investigated juvenile offenses on Calla Road.

6:13 p.m. Suspicious activity investigated at Executive Health Sports Center on Highlander Way

5:53 p.m. Drug offenses investigated at Cracker Barrel Old Country Store on Nashua Road

8:52 p.m. Trespassing investigated on Kelly Avenue at Pro Star.

Wednesday - Feb. 28

1:12 p.m. Domestic disturbance investigated on Hovey Road.

4:09 p.m. Warrant served and arrest made on Cado-gan Way. Alana Shaughnessy, 31, of Nashua charged with three counts of Fraudulent Use of a

Credit Card.

4:34 p.m. Assault investigated on Oakridge Drive.

4:40 p.m. Domestic disturbance results in arrest on Calla Road.

5:08 p.m. Warrant served and arrest made in Bedford. Christopher Laliberte, 40, of Bedford charged with Theft; Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories.

7:35 p.m. Motor vehicle complaint investigated on Rockingham Road.

7:40 p.m. Shoplifting investigated at Market Basket on Garden Lane.

Thursday - March 1

6:29 a.m. Services rendered for Medical Emergency at Manchester Boston Regional Airport.

10:16 a.m. Services rendered for motor vehicle accident on Rockingham Road at Woodhenge Circle.

10:40 a.m. Three motor vehicles involved in accident on Rockingham Road at Woodhenge Circle.

12:25 p.m. Services rendered for medical emergency at Manchester Boston Regional Airport.

2:45 p.m. Suspicious activity on Sanborn Road at Londonderry North School.

7:47 p.m. Motor vehicle accident investigated on Nashua Road at Shell Food Mart.

8:27 p.m. Four officers respond to overdose on Pillsbury Road. Transported to hospital.

8:52 p.m. Services rendered at motor vehicle accident on South Road.

8:52 p.m. Three officers investigate suspicious activity on Rockingham Road at Woodhenge Circle.

8:58 p.m. Services rendered for traffic hazard on Hardy Road at Spring Road.

9:34 p.m. Three officers respond to Overdose on Chase Road. Transported to hospital.

Friday - March 2

1:08 a.m. Four officers respond to Attempted Suicide on Fieldstone Drive. Transported to hospital.

2:29 a.m. Four officers investigate disturbance on Shawnee Place.

8:14 a.m. Services rendered for suspicious activity on Harvey Road at Majestic Repossessions

12:36 p.m. Services rendered for criminal mischief on Teton Drive.

1:46 p.m. Four officers assist Londonderry Fire Dept. removing hazard on Perkins Road at Bartley Hill Road.

3:24 p.m. Services rendered for downed wires on Cortland Street.

3:26 p.m. Services rendered for Homeland Security at Manchester Boston Regional Airport.

4:12 p.m. Disturbance investigated on Mammoth Road.

9:06 p.m. Removed traffic hazard on Peabody Row.

Saturday - March 2

8:02 a.m. Larceny/Forgery/Fraud investigated on Litchfield Road.

4:23 p.m. Three officers investigate a motor vehicle accident on Nashua Road at Mammoth Road.

7:11 p.m. Four officers investigate complaint on Beacon Street.

10:48 p.m. Arrest made after assault at McDonald's on Nashua Road. Five officers responding.

11:35 p.m. 911 call results in arrest made on Bunker Hill Drive. Bernard Reynolds, 49, of Londonderry charged with Domestic Violence Simple Assault.

Sunday - March 3

12:40 a.m. Peace restored after disturbance on Peabody Row.

2:36 p.m. Three officers make arrest after disturbance on Pillsbury Road. Susan Finnegan, 64, of Londonderry charged with Domestic Violence Simple Assault.

11:24 a.m. Three officers assist Londonderry Fire Dept with transportation to hospital form Hannaford Food and Drug on Hamp-ton Drive.

1:51 p.m. Services rendered for drug offenses on Charleston Avenue.

5:16 p.m. Citation issued for traffic offenses at Wallace Farm apartments on Bridle Path.



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Matthew Thornton Fourth Graders Get a Mushing Lesson



New Hampshire Recreational Musher Gail Guertin, returned this year to Matthew Thornton with her Siberian Huskies and sled to talk to Matthew Thornton fourth grade students about the Iditarod and her unique dogs. Guertin and her dogs, Birch, Cherry, Willow and Nori showed student how the sled is operated and Guertin explained much of the history of the dogs and the Iditarod. The fourth-graders have an annual unit on the race, and this gives them a hands-on experience.

Photos by Chris Paul



Andy Soucy Fans Can Show Their Love With Car Stickers

KATIE O'DONNELL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

For a man who doesn't like attention, Andy Soucy has made a career out of putting Londonderry in the spotlight. From marching down Mammoth Road on Memorial Day to parading through the streets of Pasadena at the Rose Bowl, Soucy and the Marching Lancers have been showing off the talents of students to only the community, but to the entire country. Throughout his 46-years as band director, Soucy has become renowned for his dedication to his students and Londonderry isn't going to let him retire quietly.

etly.

"He inspired so many, literally, so many generations of students and their parents," said Town Moderator Bob Saur.

Saur worked with current and former members of the Friends of Music to create stickers to show their love for all the work Soucy has done over the years. The stickers are white ovals with the bright blue writing that says, "Thanks Mr. Soucy... And we had a Good Time!"

Pollyann Winslow said "the real point here is it's a thank you for the work that he's done."

Soucy is typically shy when it comes to the limelight, and focuses it on the

efforts of his students. But this year at his fifth Rose Bowl Parade, Soucy was presented with a memorial brick by past presidents of the parade. Numerous articles have been written about the band, and Soucy has given countless interviews, but always turns the attention to the kids.

"Mr. Soucy is very uncomfortable" with attention, said Winslow. "It's all about the kids."

Saur said he came to the same conclusion when he noticed that in the seven years he was part of the Friends of Music, he never saw Soucy play his signature instrument, the trumpet. Saur saw Soucy play only recently, and

even then, he was playing the national anthem as a member of the band, not as a soloist.

"I stood there in awe," remarked Saur.

For Saur, Winslow and the rest of the FOM, doing something like the stickers is just seemed like the right thing to do.

"I thought it was a small way to show our appreciation around town," said Saur, "a small thing to do to show the man appreciation for his service."

The stickers are mostly the brainchild of Saur, but members of the FOM, both past and present are thrilled to show their love. Saur said that stickers

have been sent to as far away as Germany to former band members and parents.

The stickers are free to whomever wants one. Saur has been distributing them to local businesses for pick up. He hopes they will be spread as far as possible so Soucy can see how beloved he is by the town. Out of towners can email thanksmrSoucy@outlook.com to request a sticker.

There is even a Facebook group dedicated to sharing stories about the marching band and Soucy's influence on the citizenry of Londonderry. Jen Stonehouse created the group "Thank you Mr.

Soucy" on February 22 and since then it has grown to at least 1,800 as of last Monday, with no sign of stopping. Former and current band geeks and parents have been posting their affection and their photos of all the good memories they have had with Soucy.

Saur knows all the attention from the group and the stickers will probably embarrass Soucy, but he is excited to show the man who once taught his children just how much he means to everyone.

"I texted him yesterday and said, 'if you're looking for someone to blame, it was me,'" Saur said with a heartfelt laugh.

Around Town

Continued from page 16

this month will help you have fun and keep warm indoors. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned expert, we have something for you. If you have a specific craft or project in mind, the Leach Library Reference Staff can help find the right book for you.

Continuing Education Program

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Stephen Soreff, MD, at soreffs15@aol.com or 603 895-6120.

Lamplighters

A womans group with the goal of helping less fortunate woman and people in NH meets every 4th Thursday of the month 7 p.m. at Londonderry Presbyterian Church at 128 Pillsbury Road, Londonderry. If you have any questions please call 781-

866-9976.

Walk with Me

Are you losing or have lost someone? A child, a parent, a sibling or a friend? It can be a painful journey but you don't have to walk it alone anymore. Just come "Walk With Me". Meetings are the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m., at the Londonderry Presbyterian Church, 128 Pillsbury Road, Lon-

donderry. If you have any questions please call 781-866-9976.

LEEP Applications

Are you considering preschool for your child? If your child turned 3 by September 1st and is a Londonderry resident, consider enrolling your child in the Londonderry Early Education Program (LEEP) preschool program. We are a developmentally appropri-

ate preschool that is respectful of the talents and needs of individual children. Our teachers are all certified educators and the program is provided by the Londonderry School District. Programs for three-year old preschoolers meet from 8:45 - 11 a.m. either 2 or 4 days per week and our program for our prekindergarten students meet from 12 - 2:30 p.m. either 3 or 4 days per week. How do I

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