Glazed Over

Fifth-graders Sarah Cakebread, Jackie Boumann and Jillian Doris are helped by Greg Thibodeau as they glaze the tiles they created that will be fired and mounted for an outdoor mural being erected in the Matthew Thornton Elementary School courtyard.

Photo by Chris Paul

Proposed 138-Home Conservation Development Moves Forward

Chris Caesar
Londonderry Times

Plans to build the largest single-family residential development in several years took another step forward during the Planning Board meeting last week, with the board accepting the application as complete and granting four waivers recommended by staff.

The project will include 138 single-family homes on half-acre lots near the intersection of Old Derry and Auburn Roads.

If approved, the project will take several years to complete, town planner Tim Thompson said. Local ordinances restrict such development to 25 units a year.

The first phase calls for 50 homes to be built, Thompson said.

Chinburg Builders, the Durham-based developer, continued on page 11.

Voters: Budgetary Town Meeting Arrives Saturday

Chris Caesar
Londonderry Times

The Budgetary Town Meeting takes place at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 12, in the Londonderry High School cafeteria, with residents voting on the town budget and other monetary items - articles 4-13 on the Town Warrant. No quorum is required for the Town Meeting.

The following will be up for vote:

Article 4 would raise and appropriate $200,000 for the town’s maintenance trust fund, created by the voters in 2003 to cover costs associated with repairing and maintaining town facilities. If passed, the act will require a tax rate impact of $0.02 in next year’s budget.

Article 5 would approve the town operating budget for the next fiscal year, with the proposed total coming in at $25,727,911. The tax impact of the budget would be $4.48, based upon projected assessed values.

Article 6 would raise and appropriate $200,000, as well as appropriate $125,000 in surplus funds, to the town’s capital reserve fund, used to replace large-scale equipment with for the town. The sum of $60,000 would go toward ambulances, $80,000 toward highway trucks, $40,000 to highway heavy equipment and $145,000 to fire trucks. If passed, the article will have a $0.06 impact per thousand on the tax rate.

Article 7 asks residents to raise and appropriate $50,000 for the future updating of the town master plan.

continued on page 6

Open Space Task Force at Work

Chris Caesar
Londonderry Times

The Open Space Task Force is beginning a process to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to identifying areas in town worthy of conservation. And through the process, Londonderry’s location was deemed to play a role on both sides of the equation.

The group, which began meeting late last year, is directed to inventory existing physical and financial open space assets, both with input from members of the task force and from residents. Members will then attempt to quantify the town’s need for such space, considering such things as water quality, flood storage, air quality, species diversification and outdoor recreation, and make recommendations to the town council as to which properties deserve protection.

Residents are encouraged to participate in the ongoing analysis through an online survey at http://bit.ly/open-spacesurvey. By the group’s meeting Thursday night, March 3, 112 residents had already taken the survey.

“Looks like a diverse opinion,” town GIS (geographic information systems) Manager John Vogl said. “Some people love open space, and, naturally, some people are against the program.”

Chairman Mike Speltz took suggestions from members of the task force and from the Budget Committee, some of whose members were also in attendance to advise the group.

The group pointed to the town’s location, in the heart of southern New Hampshire, as a great place to work for conservation as one of the town’s strengths. Members noted that 15 percent of the town’s land is already permanently conserved.

“Collectively, we do a good job of identifying high value properties (for conservation),” outgoing school board liaison George Herrmann said. “For the most part, the...” continued on page 18
Brown Looks Back at Council Service, Notes ‘Uncivil’ Anonymous Comments

Outgoing town councilor Michael Brown said he was pleased with his nearly 10 years of public service to the town - including two non-consecutive stints on the town council - but still looked forward to spending more time with his family and planning for his retirement.

Brown, who also served on the council from 2001-2004, said a lot had changed since his first term - specifically, the growth of new media that he said encouraged “uncivil,” anonymous discourse in the town.

“Local politics over the past three to four years has turned...uncivil,” he said, searching for the correct word. “Uncivil, and unprofessional, in many ways.

“I would have to say that anyone who’s willing to put themselves out there in a public position should be cognizant of the fact, you know, they are likely to be...subjected to some unkind and untrue things,” he said. “Unfortunately, it does appear to be part of the job at this point.

“That definitely makes being a public servant in this day and age significantly more difficult than it was during my first term,” he concluded.

Brown said there was no specific incident to which he referred, though he had seen the dynamic repeatedly play out over his time on the council.

While the job had its share of lows, Brown said he was proud of a number of highs - including a renegotiation of the city's contract with Manchester Boston Regional Airport, which garnered over half a million dollars in revenue for the town.

“That (contract) is still in effect,” he said, noting the town received no money from the airport prior to the agreement, despite 70 percent of the site's being in Londonderry. “We were very proud to be able to open up the previous contract, which was not a good contract for the town.

“Ever since we renegotiated that contract, our relationship with the airport has been excellent,” he added.

Brown said that he would officially “retire” from his duties, and has no plans to run for office in the future.

“At this point, I am done with my time volunteering for the community, and it's time for some new blood to step forward.”

Brown did not make any endorsements for candidates this election cycle.

LHS Senior Among National Merit Scholarship Hopefuls

The National Merit Scholarship program narrowed down thousands of applicants for its annual $2,000 scholarship this year, with one Londonderry student among the 15,000 finalists identified by the Illinois-based organization.

Londonderry High School senior Emily Page will learn whether she is one of the 8,400 scholarship winners when the group finishes its assessment this April.

The group will mail a confidential notice to high school principals and to the student's home, announcing the finalists.

The group has given over 350,000 scholarships worth more than $1.4 billion since it was founded in 1955. For more information, visit http://www.nationalmerit.org/
Proposed State Budget Cuts Pose New Problems

CHRIS CAESAR
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The governor’s recently released proposal for next year’s budget has again caused a “significant degree of uncertainty” regarding services to residents planned in the town’s 2012 budget, Town Manager Dave Caron told the town council Monday night.

Gov. John Lynch has proposed eliminating the state’s long-time obligation to fund 35 percent of retirement costs for police officers and firefighters in local municipalities - a plan originally aimed at incentivizing towns to join the state’s retirement system.

That proposal would mean the town would have to transfer an estimated $468,387 from other line items in the town budget in order to fund its contractual obligations to its retirees, Caron said.

The town, which had already endured a 5 percent cut across most departments, has three options: request an amendment to the budget before the town meeting to reflect these newly proposed costs, call for a special meeting to deal with the ramifications, or manage the costs within appropriations raised at the town meeting Saturday.

“It’s premature at this point to look at solutions, since we aren’t sure what the ultimate problems will be,” Caron said. “We won’t know (exact figures) for another 60 days.”

Councilor Mike Brown said he wouldn’t recommend requesting additional funds at the town meeting, sticking to his long-stated goal of maintaining a flat tax rate for the next fiscal year.

“If you look at what (the governor) is saying, I think there is some merit to that - in other words, while the state has had an obligation to contribute to the funding of retirement costs, it’s the contracts that are agreed on at a local level that really determine the ultimate cost to taxpayers,” he said.

“I think what the governor is saying is that the local folks really need to take a long, hard look at how they have been doing business relative to contracts that impact retire- ment costs,” he added.

“I have a problem with the management of the state, the fiscal management,” councilman Tom Dolan said. “The state currently has a legal requirement to pay x percent to us, that’s the law, and that’s how we plan our budgets, that’s how we plan our tax rates and our budgeting, and now the state is coming back at this late hour and giving us trial balloons, or hints, that there are going to be some major changes we have to react to with some kind of special extraordinary action.”

“There’s one thing about cutting programs and cutting costs - we know about that, we’ve done it here locally,” he concluded. “We know how to do that. There’s another issue when you keep things the way they are and then just make other people pay, or downshift the cost.”

Town Councilor Sean O’Keefe suggested the group invite some of the town’s state representatives to come in for another joint meeting, where the council could assess their intentions and plans for the budget season.

Citizen Petitions at Town Meeting for Fire Programs, Protective Clothing

CHRIS CAESAR
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Two citizens’ petitions will be placed before the voters at Saturday’s town meeting - one, to fund the call firefighters program at $20,000 a year, and another to fund fire-rescue personal protective clothing, also at a $20,000 a year cost.

Both programs, which were cut under the town manager’s proposed budget this year, would each have a .01 cent per thousand increase in the tax rate, or $3 each on a $300,000 home.

Vinny Curro, who is a member of the call firefighters, said he brought Article 12 forward to fund training for his organization - which helps provide backup to full-time firefighters - which he would otherwise have to pay out of pocket.

That amount could be about $500 for his own training, Curro said.

The organization also provides services such as the car seat program in town, safety days at local elementary schools and open houses for community outreach.

“I like to do it, I like to help,” he said. “All of the money for our programs and the little stipend we get comes from that call budget - all of our gear, our training money, from one budget. It’s not like you can say, well, transfer it over from the full-time Fire Department (budget).”

Curro said Fire Chief Kevin MacCaffrie has said the call department staffed, but due to other budget cuts, needed to cut from the program.

The town council and budget committee did not endorse either one of the citizen petitions.

The call firefighters could potentially continue in a volunteer capacity, though if the costs of maintaining adequate training and equipment were transferred to volunteers, it may prevent otherwise qualified individuals from participating, Curro said.

Article 11, also brought forth by Curro, would restore $20,000 cut by the town council in the fire department budget for safety clothing, such as boots, bunker coat, gloves, and helmets.

MacCaffrie told the council that if any of his men needed new equipment, he would be able to find the money for it in another line item, though Curro was skeptical of that claim.

“The guys next year that are in gear now that they’ve been using for six years, won’t get any replacement gear at all” at the end of this cycle, he said. “We’re looking at $3...to make sure people going into burning buildings have all the protection they need. It doesn’t take a whole heck of a lot.”

Town Meeting is Saturday, March 12, at the Londonderry High School cafeteria, starting at 9 a.m.
Editorial

Let the Sun Shine In

Open and transparent government - sounds like the battle cry of community newspapers. 

It’s what the public should expect from officials at the local, state and national level. And providing information about the operation of government at the local level is a job this newspaper takes seriously.

March 13 through 19 is Sunshine Week, a reminder that government business conducted in the open is at the heart of a democracy. If we don’t know what our officials are doing, we have no way to hold them accountable. And the more information we all have, the better.

Knowledge, as the saying goes, is power. And that power is something to be held close to the chest by politicians; it belongs to each of us and is available to everyone who votes politicians into office and depends on them for services, fair budgeting and just plain listening to the will of the people.

Sunshine Week is a national effort spearheaded by the American Society of News Editors. Though the week was created by journalists, it is not about newspapers, it’s about the will of the people.

The motto of Sunshine Week is “Your Right to Know.” That’s the heart of what government is all about. As a citizen in a democracy, you have the right to know how your government operates, and your elected officials have the obligation, except in carefully spelled out specific situations, to conduct their business in the open, even when it gets uncomfortable for them.

Sure, it’s easier for officials to discuss public business in private, where strategies can be aired without anyone listening. But that’s not the way things are supposed to work.

Discussion is to be public. In a quorum. On the record.

Making it hard for the public to find out what’s going on is playing loose with open government. That’s why we report what we do. Then it’s up to all citizens to make their voices heard.

So in the midst of what could be a rainy season, we’re here to let the sun shine in.

Letters

Military Names Sought

To the editor:

I am an eighth grade American Studies teacher at Londonderry Middle School and a lifelong Londonderry resident.

For the past 13 years, the eighth graders of Londonderry Middle School have made their annual trip to Washington, D.C., to visit many of the historical sites that represent our great country. Each year we try to improve the trip and make it more personal to our students.

To enhance student engagement during the trip this year, the eighth grade American Studies department hoped to find the names of soldiers from Londonderry who are either buried in Arlington National Cemetery or whose names are engraved on the Vietnam War Memorial. We feel that it would benefit students to tie in the history of their hometown with the history of our nation and to recognize men and women just like themselves who have served their country with honor.

We are asking the community for help with the names and history of soldiers from Londonderry who are buried at Arlington National Cemetery or memorialized on the Vietnam War Memorial. We believe that honoring Londonderry soldiers at Arlington and/or at the Vietnam War Memorial wall would be a fitting conclusion to our Washington, D.C., unit.

If you have information regarding Londonerry soldiers honored at Arlington or on the Wall that you are willing to share with eighth grade American Studies teachers and students, please contact me at dpalange@londonderry.org or 432-6925, ext. 3203 or at Londonerry Middle School, 313 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH 03053.

Thank you for all of your support for Londonerry students, teachers, and staff.

David Palange

Londonderry Middle School

Appalled at Greenhouse Gas Vote

To the editor:

Incredibly, the House of Representatives voted to withdraw New Hampshire from RGGI (pronounced “Reggie”), the multi-state Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. This was a lose-lose-decision for the people of New Hampshire.

The state will lose $13 million a year, its share of the proceeds from auctioning carbon emissions to power companies throughout New England. Since power is generated regionally, electricity consumers would still have to pay much of the cost, about 36 cents a month on residential utility bills.

The money from RGGI is dedicated to projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, like weatherizing Crotchet Mountain. The $13 million goes to creating jobs in New Hampshire.

The auctions provide incentives for power companies to develop alternative energy. This benefits New Hampshire companies like GSolar, which makes solar cell equipment.

Most of the coal burned in New Hampshire is imported from Venezuela. Coal-burning power plants buy from a country that does not get along well with the U.S. It doesn’t make sense to be sending jobs abroad.

Coal plants are inevitably dirty. First, they emit mercury, sulphur, and other noxious smoke into the air, so they are immediately unhealthy. Especially to children and older people with lungs weakened by natural aging or by smoking.

Second, coal burning is a potent source of carbon dioxide emissions. New Hampshire’s temperature has increased by 3 F degrees already. Some people believe the lies spread by global warming deniers; many of the deniers and liars are funded indirectly by fossil fuel companies. Lies do not stop global warming from happening.

New Hampshire doesn’t have coal miners or oil well workers. I never heard of a coal mine owner living here. But Americans For Prosperity, an organization founded by fossil fuel interests, paid for robocalls to many households in New Hampshire a week ago favoring withdrawal.

I hope the Senate gives more consideration to House Bill 519 and votes it down. The people of New Hampshire deserve no less; this bill doesn’t benefit us.

Barbara Lowrey

Londonderry

Sacrifice Needed

To the editor:

With all the budget cuts, we still face at least a $14 per thousand increase on our overvalued home. I reviewed the Town and School District budgets. I still can’t understand how we justify a custodian making the same and in many instances more money than a teacher. It must be a tenure.

In the real world, there is a cap usually placed on continued on page 5
Letters

Continued from page 4

a position. What that means is your skills are not as valuable as others. Unless you are also a member of the brotherhood; in that case, all logic is abandoned.

In this list of salaries, is it coincidence that many surnames are the same? If those positions are so terrible and underpaid, do what the rest of the country does, find another career.

I agree with much of what was recently written in the ‘Letters’ of the Londonderry Times concerning the job that is responsible for the mess. The jobs to other countries, etc. It’s unbelievable to think we can compare the job that our local police and fire have to those who responded to 9-11. I read the Police Log to see how things are in the Town, and it seems fine. I know advocates will attribute that to the number of police we have or the new fire stations we built in the last few years. There aren’t many buildings higher than three stories in the whole town. I listen for how many fire calls, and they are not a daily occurrence.

I found it interesting that a firefighter from the Midwest found time to come to New Hampshire to picket. It is time everyone sacrifices equally. I can’t just stand outside my place of employment or behind closed doors and tell my employer I want more money, I don’t care what financial problems you have.

The whole collective bargaining situation needs to change. If we the taxpayers cannot afford to give you a raise, that should be it, not the arm-twisting tactics that come under the title “un-American” or an assault on the middle class. That is what most of us taxpayers are: middleclass.

I have witnessed the rage of a different union whose members picketed outside a private business and threatened anyone who dared to cross the lines to make a living, often yelling obscenities and yelling “Scab.” Does “Right To Work” mean anything?

Our President, who should stay out of this business, has shown how much he relies on the money of union members to finance the political process. He said, “We need to attract the best and the brightest.” But we don’t advocate proficiency testing.

Mr. Obama also generously bestowed a 1.9 percent raise on our military. The Commanding Officer of any of the units involved in the Middle East or responsible for multi-million-dollar combat equipment earns less than many of the salaries I see. They are putting their lives on the line every day and cannot threaten to not go to work.

So don’t just put your raise off for this year and negotiate to make it up in future years; that is not a sacrifice.

Joe Maggio
Londonderry

Comments on Letters

To the editor:

I would like to comment on two letters that were recently printed in the Londonderry Times.

The first letter was about anti-union legislation. First, Wisconsin’s budget reform bill denies public union employees from collective bargaining except over wage increases that aren’t beyond the rate of inflation. Police and firefighters are excluded. The public employees still have their pensions and healthcare, they just have to pay a little more for them. They even can use collective bargaining in some cases for wages.

Considering that many of us in the private sector are losing our jobs or having decreases in hours and/or benefits, this sounds like a reasonable proposal to me. This isn’t a war on the working class. This is a relief to many communities that are seeing most of their taxes go to pay for public employees’ pensions and benefits. Just look at what Londonderry pays for these items – and people wonder why their taxes are increasing!

Secondly, I don’t see why people have to be forced to join a union. Considering that many high-level union officials are associated with Socialists and Communists (unions were big with Karl Marx), people should not have to see their dues go to political causes they disagree with, as is often the case. It’s a shame really, because many rank-and-file workers in the union don’t believe in and wouldn’t donate to these causes themselves.

Look closely at the crowd in Wisconsin and you’ll see many Socialist and Communist groups supporting the protesters. All workers should be able to decide if a union is right for them and represents their best interests and beliefs. I believe the right-to-work law provides this choice.

The second letter supported Planned Parenthood. My main objection with Planned Parenthood is that it received taxpayer dollars to supply abortions. Yes, it provided many other good health-care services but it is their abortion service, as well as the fact that they turned a blind eye to statutory rape and child prostitution, that earned them the well-deserved cutout of funding. If you don’t believe me, check out the videos on undercover work done by some very brave people at Live Action who chose to expose Planned Parenthood.

The reader implied that many women and families would be adversely affected by the defunding of Planned Parenthood. Many, if not all, hospitals in the state offer healthcare services for those with financial difficulties. Churches and other organizations also offer financial assistance.

Finally, I ask you to do some research into the founder of Planned Parenthood, Margaret Sanger. She believed in Malthusian Eugenics. Here is quote of hers: “It is a vicious cycle: ignorance breeds poverty and poverty breeds ignorance. There is only one cure for both, and that is to stop breeding these things.” She also started The Negro Project. Can you guess which group this targeted? With a foundation like this, is it any wonder that Planned Parenthood’s house is beginning to crumble?

Helen Maynard
Londonderry

Foreign Ownership

To the editor:

The Obama Administration is spending our money at unprecedented levels, and it is projected to continue for years into the future. Our annual federal deficit is approaching $1.5 trillion and will probably hit $2 trillion before long. Our national debt is projected to go from $14 trillion now to $25 trillion in five to eight years.

As of Nov. 30, 2010 the following are the top 10 countries holding U.S. Treasury Securities in billions of dollars:

1) Communist China, $868 billion.
2) Japan, $877 billion.
3) United Kingdom, $512.
4) Oil exporters, including Venezuela and Middle East countries, $210 billion.
5) Brazil, $184 billion.
6) Caribbean countries, $146 billion.
7) Hong Kong, $139 billion.
8) Canada, $135 billion.
9) Taiwan, $131 billion.
10) Russia, $123 billion.

We are indebted to some countries who are potential adversaries and might be unfriendly to us in the future. They could decrease their purchases of U.S. Treasury Securities, which would increase interest rates; or they could sell their U.S. Securities, which would hurt the dollar and significantly increase inflation.

The U.S. Administration and Congress have to reign in our current spending spree and reduce our deficits and the money we owe to foreign countries.

Harold Myerson, editor-at-large of American Prospect and the L.A. Weekly, in his article “Think bigger, Mr. President” has it right. He stated, “We need to either raise taxes on unfair foreign competition or reduce taxes on companies that keep, bring or create jobs at home.”

Donald A. Moskowitz
Londonderry
Londonderry Robotics Team Receives Creativity Award

The Londonderry High School FIRST Robotics team won a Xerox Creativity Award during the group’s regional competition in Manchester last weekend.

The award, which celebrates creative design or use of a robotic component, as well as a creative or unique strategy of play, was awarded to the group for the development of a locking mechanical wheel. “They had a mechanical wheel system...which is common in FIRST – it’s a wheel that moves in any direction, so you have a lot of maneuverability,” Judge’s Assistant Alethea Borrelli explained. “This wheel had a locking mechanism, which impressed the judges.”

The mechanism allowed the wheel to stand in place, which Borrelli said is often a problem that leads groups to take other approaches in their design. FIRST – “For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology” - was founded by educator and inventor Dean Kamen 20 years ago, and has since grown to include over 1,000 schools.

Students build robots that compete to complete otherwise simple tasks, receiving points for each successful mission, with bonus points available for particularly innovative approaches or accomplishments. For more information, visit http://usfirst.org.

Robotics team members are Alec MacDonald, Anthony DiMarco, Anthony Jennings, Ben Morrill, Bobby Bisson, Brandon Zalinsky, Brendan McLeod, Brian Eccles, Chris Murray, Emma Tello, Erick Fleagle, Jack Magrath, Joel Dufour, Julie Walker, Kailey Martin.

Also, Kevin Lukitsch, Laura Curro, Lindsay O’Donnell, Matt Boucher, Matt Mayer, Max Renke, Nick Hilton, Nolan Manor, Russell Plumer, Russell Saur, Sam Morrill, Schuyler Martin, Shane Fitzpatrick and Steve Inza.

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Election Results
See all the results from the March 8th Election at: nutpub.net

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Continued from page 1

Vote

surplus funds. If passed, the article would not impact the tax rate.

Article 8 would appropriate $5,411,730 for the town sewer fund, cable fund and “police outside detail” fund. As the services are funded through user fees, article 8 would have no tax impact on residents if passed.

Article 9 asks residents to ratify an agreement with the town’s fire union, the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 3160. If passed, the article would raise and appropriate $5,000 to fund the first year of the three-year agreement, with a tax rate impact of $0.002 per thousand in the next fiscal year.

Article 10 would permit the town council to call a special meeting to renegotiate the contract, should article 9 be defeated at the ballot.

Article 11, brought forth by citizen’s petition, would raise and appropriate $20,000 to fund personal and protective clothing for members of the town fire department. The article would have a tax rate impact of $0.01 thousand.

Article 12, another citizen’s initiative, would raise and appropriate $20,000 to fund the fire department’s call company. This too would have a tax rate impact of $0.01 thousand.

Articles 3 to 10 were all unanimously endorsed by both the town council and budget committee. Article 11 was not, with a 1-4-0 vote on town council, and a 1-6-0 split on the budget committee.

Article 12 also failed to garner their support, with a 1-4-0 vote on town council and a 2-5-0 vote among budget committee members.
Local Third Grader Scores High in Regional Braille Challenge

North Elementary School third grader Gabrielle Garaghty came in second place at the annual Regional Braille Challenge reading, writing and spelling contest in Newton, Mass., last weekend, winning the regionals. The challenge place, win could mean she would again travel to California to compete at the national level. Gabrielle Garaghty scored high in the Regional Braille Challenge.

Gabrielle, 9, came in first place last year and competed in Los Angeles, her mother, Maribeth, said. More than 600 students who compete among like-aged students from first to 12th grades, participate every year. Students are graded on their proficiency with reading charts and speed accuracy, along with tests on spelling, reading comprehension and proof-reading. Gabrielle uses an electronic braille note - analogous to a laptop, Maribeth explained - to write down notes and compete at the match. "It can do a lot of stuff, it can do internet, it does everything," Gabrielle said.

Gabrielle, who weighed 1 pound, 6 ounces after a premature birth, has been blind her whole life, her mother said. "We just tell people she is very lucky to be alive, she's just blind," she said.

"A lot of people see that as a huge deficit, but she almost didn't make it here. She thinks she's great, she doesn't see anything wrong with being blind...when people ask how to fix her eyes, she says they're fine, that it doesn't matter - it's just the way I am," her mother added.

"I love this world," Gabrielle said. "It's so full of cool things, all this food, and everything you could possibly want is in this world. And people keep making better stuff." Even big books, like "Harry Potter," she said. "In braille, they are like 10 volumes long."

While the Carroll Center for the Blind, the group that runs the regional contest, has yet to name the national finalists, Gabrielle's second-place win could mean she would again travel to California to compete at the national level.

For more information, visit www.carroll.org
Town Council Honors its Community Volunteers

The town’s volunteer awards were distributed during the town council meeting Monday night, with 17 residents and town officials honored for their contributions and services to Londonderry in a variety of capacities.

Three Volunteers of the Year were recognized: Joel Sadler, Kerri Stanley and Maureen Pauwels, all honored for maintaining the town’s “Beautify Londonderry” program.

“We quickly find out that Londonderry is driven by a volunteer spirit and work ethic,” councilman Mike Brown said. “Most of what gets done in this town is through the efforts of volunteers; very few of it is carried out by paid professionals. "Oftentimes, it’s hard to just pick one person, but there’s a group of three people in particular that did an outstanding job,” he continued. The Beautify Londonderry group saw its funding cut, but a call for volunteers to keep it running was answered by the three residents.

”Three individuals raised their hands and said they would do it,” he said. “They manage, run and facilitate the efforts of a lot of volunteers, contact sponsors, and basically run a five-week program that signifies what’s really great about Londonderry.”

And Father Bob Couto of St. Jude’s Parish was awarded the “Outstanding Citizen of the Year” award, for what chairman Paul DiMarco described as his dedication to “serving his community his whole life, regardless of their faith - the sick, the dying, people that need food and oil.”

Couto, who was not aware he would be receiving the prize, was told by some in the audience that he should attend the ceremony to support another member of the community.

“We’re all going to hell because we lied to get him here,” resident Joe Paradis quipped.

Couto said the town was full of “extraordinary” people "caring for brothers and sisters in need." "Without the students in town, who contribute financially and with food, we wouldn’t be able to help so many that are truly in need," he said. "We hope to be able to continue to do that."

Long-time town historian Marilyn Ham received a standing ovation from the crowd after receiving an award from Councilman Tom Dolan. "(Ham) has been historian since, well, history began," Dolan joked. "Congratulations for your service, and many thanks for the many, many years you dedicated to the community."

While she recently moved to Derry, Ham said his “heart’s still here with Londonderry folks. “Keep recording history, because it’s terribly important,” she told the crowd. “Thank you.”

Don Jorgensen and Mark Oswald were presented with awards for their service on the Budget Committee. Richard MacKie was also awarded for his term on the Trustees of the Leach Library. While not in attendance, Scott Knox was awarded for his work on the Trustees of the Trust Fund.

Sandra Weston and her colleague Peg Johnson, who was not in attendance, were recognized for their work on the Elder Affairs Committee. “They are the unsung heroes of the community - they are the ones that really get things done,” Councilman John Farrell said. “I’ve attended a few of their meetings, and what you see is people with very little resources getting a lot done.”

Deb Paul and Lara McIntyre were honored for their work on the Heritage Commission, with Farrell receiving an award for his work on the Planning Board. Cole Meledny, who was also honored for his work on the Planning Board, was not present.

Father Bob Couto of Saint Jude Parish displays his Citizen of the Year award.
Police Officials Give Residents Tips on Safety, as Burglaries Rise

CHRIS CAESAR
LONDONDERRY TIMES

A nearly 90 percent increase in burglaries in the town over the past three years prompted a presentation by Lt. Chris Gandia and Police Chief Bill Hart at Monday night’s town council meeting, offering residents tips to keep their homes and property safe.

Gandia opened the presentation by sharing a story about a home burglary in Ashland earlier last month, where a resident came home to find a pair of strange work boots outside, covered with fresh snow.

The resident retrieved a handgun and began systematically searching his home for a burglar, Gandia said. He ultimately found the suspect in his bedroom, at which point the man jumped out of the second-floor window onto a snowbank and fled. The suspect was later identified as the man’s neighbor, Gandia said.

“What were some of the factors that mitigated or helped his safety?” Gandia asked. “What cues did he have? The shoes - did he have environmental awareness? He did. He saw them right away. Did he have a plan of action? Yes - retrieve the gun, systematically search his house.

“We can debate whether that was the prudent thing to do or not, but he had environmental awareness and a plan of action,” he concluded.

Gandia said that people often don’t assess their homes for safety during a home invasion, but emphasized that knowing your environment could save your life in an emergency.

At least 26 percent of victims of home burglaries become victims of a violent crime committed during the break-in, he said.

“Know your environment: know your escape routes, lockable doors or rooms, and windows for egress,” he said. “When we go into our home, we don’t usually think about it like that, but if we did, we’ll find that maybe we have some good escape routes and some not so good ones.”

Gandia added that residents who discover their home is being invaded while they are inside should escape the premises and call the police.

“Barring that, he said, the safest approach would be to barricade yourself in a room with a locked door.

Should residents come back to find a potential home invasion under way, the lieutenant advised they leave the premises and call 911.

“Sometimes we get a sense of bravado - ‘no one is going to come in here and attack my family’ - which is great and all, but sometimes it’s more prudent to escape, if that is the better course of action,” he said.

He added that police often adhere to the “plus two” doctrine - that is if police believe there is one suspect in a hostile situation, there are probably two.

“Would the (victim in Ashland) have been equipped to handle two burglars? Probably not,” he said.

Gandia also recommended homes get audible alarm systems, and, should a family choose to own a gun, to have it regularly cleaned and shot to make sure it will work in an emergency.

Though the state does not distinguish between home and business burglaries, Gandia said 4,464 burglaries were reported last year.

Londonderry had 42 burglaries in 2008, 69 in 2009 and 79 in 2010 - an 88 percent increase over three years.

Gandia said the rise could be attributed to a number of factors, including increased drug interdiction in the town and the failing economy.

“Londonderry is still one of the safest communities in one of, if not the, safest state in the country,” Hart said. “We have proximity to two exits on the highway that go almost directly into residential areas. That provides ease for the potential criminal.”

Hart said he agreed the economy could be a factor, as well as fewer officers on the road.
Local Woman Hopes to Start ‘Book and Dinner Group’

CHRIS CAESAR
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Katherine Strakes
Katherine Strakes, 97, of Hudson died March 1, 2011 in D’Youville Senior Care in Lowell, Mass.

She was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Sept. 9, 1913, a daughter of the late Nick and Elpinki (Roditis) Devreotes.

She had been a resident of Hudson since 2005, formerly living in Howell, N.J.

Mrs. Strakes enjoyed traveling with her husband and going on boat rides with her brother and sister-in-law. She also loved animals, especially her dog, Webster.

She is survived by her granddaughter, Cathryn Walsh, and her husband, Michael, of Londonderry; her grandson, Jason Strakes of Newport News, Va.; her daughter-in-law, Leslie Strakes of Beaverton, Ore.; three great-grandchildren, Andrew, Dylan, and Nikki; and one nephew, Peter Devreotes, and his wife, Aline, of Towson, Md. She was predeceased by her husband, Louis Strakes, in 1992; her son, George Devreotes; her daughter, Nikki DeMaria, and her brother, Peter Devreotes and his wife, Lucille.

Calling hours were March 3 in the Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium, Londonderry. The funeral service was March 4 at St. Philip’s Greek Orthodox Church, Nashua. The burial will be in Maplewood Cemetery in Freehold, N.J., under the direction of Freeman Funeral Home, 47 East Main St., Freehold. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, Mass. 01710. To send a condolence or for more information, visit: www.peabodyfuneralhome.com

‘Boys Respect’ Group Offers Outdoor Fun for Middle Schoolers

CHRIS CAESAR
LONDONDERRY TIMES

If you’re a middle-school-aged boy who thinks that getting lost in the woods, riding bikes and going snowshoeing seems like a good time, English and math teacher Mary Soares may have just the club for you.

The “Boys Respect” group has been meeting at the middle school for four years, along with similar programs in the district’s three elementary schools.

The group brings together male students for “adventures” in local recreation areas such as the Musquash Trail, where Soares said kids develop self-confidence, problem-solving skills and get some fresh air with their classmates.

“Sometimes, boys want to be able to do boy things, and girls want to be able to do girl things,” she said. “I don’t want to sound sexist, but there are going to be many opportunities for them to be social (together)...dances and other activities that they have, or in class. 

“We just want to have them have an opportunity to do something where they don’t have to worry about what the girls are going to think, they don’t have to impress anyone,” she added.

The school also offers a “Girls Respect” group with a similar philosophy for female students at the school.

Soares, who has four boys of her own, said the school didn’t have an advisor for the program when she arrived four years ago.

Even when the program lost its outside funding last year, Soares worked with school officials to keep the program going.

“We figured: we have resources in our school, why don’t we use those?” she said, noting the group has used the school’s snowshoes and transportation.

“It’s very enjoyable,” she concluded. "I look forward to doing it every year, and the kids seem to have a great time and come to every meeting."

Those interested in joining can retrieve a sign-up form from the door outside of Soares’s classroom.

OBIITUARY

Katherine Strakes

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Normally, a moving box full of human hair would be, well, a little creepy.

But at Londonderry High School, it’s just another act of charity by the service-minded student body.

The high school collected 2,449 inches of hair for the Pantene Beautiful Lengths program earlier this year, donating enough hair to provide 51 wigs to those with hair loss due to cancer treatment.

Natasha Telschow provided the most hair of any student, with 16.5 inches donated during a ceremony earlier this year.

Students Brittany Machoney and Victoria Durrett came in second and third, with 15 and 14 inches respectively.

A handful of the students met to send off the box of hair, and take a photo with the evidence of their hard work.

School board member John Robinson, who also donated a portion of his hair, received a certificate as the first school board member to participate in the program.

“I think being a freshman last year inspired me to do it,” Andrea Ruge, who donated nine inches of hair, said. “I saw all my friends doing it, and I kind of wanted to do the same thing, because it looked fun and was a good thing.”

“My mom had cancer, and lost a lot of her hair,” Stevee Carollo said. “I figured I had enough to donate, and I wanted to give back, so she was my inspiration.”

Carollo’s mother passed away from her struggle with cancer, and Carollo said she had been growing her hair out ever since to participate.

The school has received national recognition for its efforts, spearheaded by English teacher Steve Juster.

“Economically, you can cluster the homes on smaller lots, so there is less infrastructure to construct - you can save costs in that respect - and you get the bonus of permanent open space, without the town expending funds to protect it themselves,” he said.

“Because of that, the developer is able to price point the homes so they are a little bit more affordable,” he said.

The first phase of the project will include 22 acres of open space, according to minutes from a Londonderry Conservation Committee meeting.

The parcel, which is across the street from the former Auburn Road Landfill - a 200-acre federal Superfund site that the state closed in 1980 after toxic organic chemicals were found in the surface and ground water around the site - will not require any special conditions as a result of its proximity to the site’s potentially contaminated water.

Superfund sites are federally recognized as containing hazardous contaminants endangering local ecosystems or public health.

“It’s completely separated from that, the Superfund site is a completely separate parcel,” Thompson said.

Any development planned on the site itself, should any such plans come forward, would require the developers to employ municipal water - instead of the on-site groundwater - for any plumbing needs, Thompson said.

From left, Stevee Carollo, Andrea Ruge, Olivia Taylor, Julia Frechette, Elizabeth Juster, Madison Gehrisch, Chrishelle Armstrong, and Steve Juster sort through some of the 30-plus pounds of hair that was cut earlier this year and is now being shipped to the Pantene Beautiful Lengths program Monday morning at Londonderry High School. Photo by Chris Paul
While discussions got a bit tense during a discussion among the Planning Board members, staff said a proposal by RHP Investments - owners of the now vacated Londonderry South Fire Station - skipped a few steps in their application for a change of use at the site, and recommended the group backtrack to the design review process.

Project developer Elmer Pease, who was representing RHP Investments, told the board he thinks the problems identified by staff - who stopped listing missed parts on the applicant’s checklist after they found 26 deficiencies - were onerous and over-the-top for a mere change of use.

“We’re not proposing improvements,” he said of the property. “We’re proposing a tenant occupy a vacant building.

“You can see how long this process has been going on, just to get one tenant into an existing building that’s an allowed use,” he added.

“I think we had a conceptual discussion back in December, and I think his understanding of what had to take place, and the understanding of the board and staff, was different,” Town Planner Tim Thompson said after the meeting. “What he originally submitted as an application had many items missing...we use that application checklist to determine whether an application is complete. If there are missing items...he opted to withdraw that back to design review, which is our pre-application process, and wanted to discuss that.”

Thompson said staff would be happy to work with the developer, and Pease also expressed a willingness to meet with staff.

“I think that will resolve some of these issues,” Pease told the board.

Among the issues are a septic problem on-site - namely, waste is collected in a cesspool, against town regulations - and limited parking spaces.

Thompson said the town has been upfront with every potential buyer for the property about the special conditions at the site.

The board allowed the applicant to revert back to the design review process, to begin addressing the problems raised in the initial application.
Chris Pantazis
Londonderry Times

Folks who think they know what to expect to happen in a big athletic contest between two teams sometimes get shown just how wrong they can be. And yes, that group can include sports-writers.

And one major case in point occurred last Saturday at The Ice Den in Hooksett when the ice hockey squads from Londonderry High School and Pinkerton Academy met up in a Division I quarterfinal-round tournament contest.

The second-ranked Astros had manhandled the seventh-seeded Lancers in each of the two regular season meetings between the squads so, of course, Pinkerton was going to make it three in a row and advance to the semifinal-round with a besting of the LHS bunch, right? Wrong.

Coach Peter Bedford’s Londonderry crew played an incredibly effective checking game against the powerful Astros and did enough finishing of its own scoring chances to end the Pinkerton squad’s season with a 3-2 defeat.

“This is why I coach,” said Bedford in the euphoric moments after the victory. “Not for the win or for any accolades, but for the 20 or so kids in that (locker) room who have just created a memory together that they’ll have with them for the rest of their lives, no matter what else happens to them.”

The Lancers kept up their impressive success against top four-ranked teams with the glittering victory, keeping PA stalwarts like Zach Sanford, J.D. Dudek, and Cam Romano from running wild on offense, as they’d done so many times before this winter.

“Our guys battled, stuck right on the puck, and took away their chances to do anything,” said Bedford.

The Lancers now face a semifinal battle with the third-ranked Hanover High Marauders at Manchester’s JFK Coliseum this Wednesday afternoon, March 9, at 5:30.

Londonderry absolutely stunned Pinkerton by bagging the first two goals of the quarterfinal game in the first 12 minutes of play, with Brian Greene getting the fun started by scoring on the Lancers’ first shot on net of the game four minutes in.

The freshman forward took a pass from linemate Mike Bears, zoomed down the left wing of the PA zone, and zipped a shot past Astros’ goalie Dave Belanger.

The second Lancer goal was of the fluky variety, but it was certainly one the locals wanted to take to the bank regardless.

Yet another freshman forward - lanky Eric Coburn - tried to center the puck off the left wing in the PA zone, but the disc deflected off a Pinkerton defenseman and past a stunned Dave Belanger, making the score 2-0.

Pinkerton now desperately needed to notch the next goal and trim back the Lancers’ momentum, and that’s just what the Derry side did with just 5.8 seconds to go in the stanza when Sanford rapped home a rebound.

Londonderry put plenty of pressure on the PA net during the first nine minutes of the second stanza, despite Pinkerton’s efforts to save its insurance-goal purposes.

But there would be no more scoring in the final stanza, despite Pinkerton’s efforts to save its season.

LHS keeper Collins finished the big day with 22 saves, while his Lancers put 25 shots on Belanger.

Bedford’s bunch had advanced to the quarterfinal-round battle with Pinkerton by virtue of a rather dramatic, 6-4 opening-round defeat of the 10th-seeded Nashua High North Titans at The Cyclones Arena in Hudson last Wednesday, March 2.

The game was tied up at 1-1, 2-2, 3-3, and 4-4 before Mike Bears potted his second big goal of the third period to hand the hosts a lead that wouldn’t disappear.

The first few minutes of play were simply awful for the Londonderry side, as it drew a too many men on the ice penalty less than 60 seconds in, and North grabbed a 1-0 lead on a power-play tally just 11 seconds after that.

But the Lancers knot...
LHS Boy Cagers Close Out Regular Season with Winning Streak

Chris Pantazis
Londonderry Times

The Londonderry High School boys’ basketball squad propelled itself into the Division I tournament with a real head of steam, winning its final five regular season games and finishing up with a very solid, 11-7 record.

The last two of those victories came over the Keene High Blackbirds on the road and the Concord High Crimson Tide at home last week. “After starting the season at 0-3, I’d say that ending up 11-7 is pretty good,” said LHS coach Jeff Gustavson with a grin. “I think the (Manchester) Memorial game (a 35-47 win in mid-January) was the turning point of the season. That was when the guys really started to believe in themselves.”

Starting point guard Tyler Ball had one of his biggest offensive nights of the season, sinking a trio of threes to aid the Londonderry cause plenty.

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Lady Lancers Launch into Tourney Semifinals with Big Victories

The Londonderry High girls’ basketball squad didn’t find either the Keene High Lady Blackbirds or the Bishop Guertin Lady Cardinals from Nashua impediments to its divisional title hopes last week.
The second-seeded Lady Lancers hammered 15th-ranked Keene by some 32 points in a Division I, preliminary-round tournament contest at LHS last Wednesday, March 2, and followed up that fine piece of work with a 19-point thumping of the Guertin girls in a quarterfinal-round game in Londonderry last Saturday night.

Coach John Fagula’s LHS crew now finds itself matched up with the sixth-seeded Alvirne High Lady Broncos in a semifinal-round battle at Southern New Hampshire University this Wednesday afternoon, March 9, at 5:30 p.m.
The Lady Lancers had advanced to their quarterfinal-round meeting with BG with an unadulterated rout of the 15th-seeded Keene High Blackbirds in first-round play.

Londonderry raced out to a 12-4 lead in the first quarter, and was up by a full 24 points (30-6) at halftime. And no fewer than 13 LHS players ended up tallying points in the impressive overall effort which ended with a 67-35 Londonderry victory.

The hosts employed intense full-court defensive pressure to stymie and frustrate their opponent, to the point where it actually became pleasing for fans of both teams to be able to see Keene get the basketball over the mid-court stripe after a while.

Fagula’s forces also pressed early and often in the 63-44 defeat of Guertin three nights later, which was an even more lopsided game than the final score indicates.

The hosts shot terribly (4-for-19) from the floor in the first period, and they were still up by six points (15-9) when the quarter finished.

By halftime the Londonderry lead sat at 14 points (29-15), and after three full quarters coach Fagula was able to sit his starters down as the advantage had nearly doubled to 26 points (48-22).

Daniele Crutcher led the Londonderry charge with 15 points, but a total of 12 Lady Lancers did some scoring.

The three Lancers had qualified for the major New England event by notching top-three finishes at the New Hampshire Meet of Champions (MOC) one week earlier.

Junior Dan Roger, who snagged the Division I title in his 119-pound weight class in dramatic fashion - overtime no less - several weeks ago, got to the regionals by finishing third at the MOC’s.

His fellow Londonderry High 11th grader, 125-pound stalwart Wilson, had notched third place at the Meet of Champs to get himself qualified for the Connecticut event.

And 140-pound senior standout Chase was like a little kid getting precisely what he wanted on Christmas morning in the moments after finishing third at the MOC’s, knowing that he’d just qualified to roll on to the regionals.

None of the three Lancer guys medaled at the New Englands, but all three got a reminder of what it’s like to be among some of the best grapplers the region has to offer.
LHS Swimmers Perform Well at the New England Championships

A number of talented young swimmers from Londonderry High School capped off their 2010-11 high school season with some excellent performances at the New England High School Swimming Championships at the University of New Hampshire last Saturday. Competing against some of the top high school swimmers from the Granite State, Maine, and Rhode Island, the LHS athletes got themselves noticed through fine finishes in a great many events.

The Londonderry High girls notched no fewer than a half-dozen top-five finishes, with freshman phenom Ana Milosavljevic tallying a third place individually in the 50-yard freestyle (time of 25.33 seconds) and a fifth place individually in the 100-yard freestyle (55.28).

The LHS 200-yard medley relay quartet of Shelby McKenney, Mandy Avella, Alyssa Bocci, and Ellen Courtemanche notched a third place as well (2 minutes, .34 seconds), with the 400 free relay group of Avella, Tracy Strong, Courtemanche, and Milosavljevic registering a fourth (3:53.33). McKenney, Strong, Bocci, and Milosavljevic working together to nab a fifth in the 200 free relay (1:47.55), and Strong tallying a fifth as an individual in the 500 free (5:33.36).

Other top-10 finishes came from Avella in the 100-yard backstroke (ninth) and Courtemanche in the 50 free (10th). As far as the Lancer guys were concerned, the quartet of Alex Holzberger, Justin Hayward, Tony Lamont, and John McCarthy snagged a third place in the 400 free relay (3:37.26). Dominic Ziolek collected a fourth individually in the 500 free (5:12.03), and he and Lamont, Phil Larie, and McCarthy teamed up to take a fourth in the 200 free relay (1:37.83).

Other top-10 finishes came from McCarthy in the 200 free (seventh) and Ziolek in the 100-yard breaststroke (eighth).

The dozen Londonderry High swimmers who competed at the New England Meet in Durham last weekend included, in front from left, Mandy Avella, Tracy Strong, Ellen Courtemanche, Ana Milosavljevic, Alyssa Bocci, and Shelby McKenney. In back from left are Phil Larie, Alex Holzberger, John McCarthy, Tony Lamont, Justin Hayward, and Dominic Ziolek.

Hockey continued from page 13

ted the score with 1:16 to go in the opening stanza when Greene notched the first of his two goals of the night.

The hosts bagged their first lead of the evening just 2:02 into the second period when Greene rifled home a shot from the left wing boards in the North zone to score unassisted again. But North answered with 7:09 left in the middle period to knot the score at 2-2.

North collected its second lead of the night just 1:03 into the third period, making it a 3-2 contest. But Sam MacNicol banged home the rebound of a Jeff Parker shot with 10:23 to go in regulation time to deadlock the game count at 3-3.

Bears then got into his goal-scoring act with a little less than five minutes to go on a power-play when he gathered up a rebound while standing alone at the left post of the North net and put the disc away in the netting.

However, North wasn’t done yet, and the lower seed tied the score up at 4-4 with 2:45 remaining and with a power-play of its own coming and its goalie on the bench in favor of one extra skater.

But Bears notched the winner with just 1:14 showing on the game clock when he rifled a shot that clanged off the crossbar behind North goalie David Thorp, hit the back of the keeper’s leg, and rolled over the goal line.

“There were a few chances that we didn’t finish, and sometimes you have to have that luck go your way,” said coach Bedord of Bears’ game-winning tally.

Parker then potted an open-net goal with 56 seconds to go and North enjoying a power-play opportunity, and Londonderry was free to roll into celebration mode.

Of course, there was an even bigger celebration coming a few days later.
**Londonderry Duo Helps its Hockey Team to a Major Title**

Londonderry youngsters Hannah Cohen, second from left in upper row of players, and Hannah Kearney, second from right in that row, helped the Manchester Lady Hurricanes’ ice hockey squad to a major title with major contributions recently. Courtesy photo

**BC Women are Struggling, But Ex-Lancer Murphy is Still Excelling**

The former Lancer continues to put up strong numbers in many categories and lend the squad vital leadership during this, her senior season on the Lady Eagles’ squad.

Murphy and the BC team were recently notified that the former LHS star has been named an All-Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) third team selection.

She ranks third in the ACC in foul shooting (82.3 percent), fifth in scoring (15.8 points per game), and sixth in rebounding (8.2 rebounds per game). That scoring average and her rebounding average are both career highs as well.

The Lady Eagles began their 2010-11 season in tremendous fashion, winning all of their first 11 games as they prepared for the meat of their Atlantic Coast Conference schedule. But 2011 hasn’t been all that friendly to the BC squad thus far, as the Lady Eagles have gone 6-11 in the New Year and now hold an overall season mark of 18-12. And the team is a sub-par 5-9 in the ACC.

Most recently, the BC bunch has won only one of six games.

Back on Sunday, Feb. 13, the Lady Eagles suffered a 66-53 loss to Duke in Durham, N.C., despite 13 points, seven rebounds, and two assists in 35 minutes of play from Murphy.

The ex-Lancer contributed 10 points, 11 boards, and two blocked shots in 28 minutes of court time in the BC squad’s 90-80 loss to Miami in Chestnut Hill on Feb. 17. And she made a fine contribution (14 points, four rebounds, two blocks in 28 minutes) to the team’s 73-50 thumping of Virginia in Charlottesville three days later.

Murphy was then good for 17 points, eight rebounds, an assist, two blocks, and two steals in 29 minutes of play in the BC contingent’s 80-69 loss to North Carolina State in Raleigh on Feb. 24.

On Sunday, Feb. 27, at home against 15th-ranked Maryland, Murphy notch ed a team-high 21 points and yanked down 10 boards in a 79-69 loss.

And then last Thursday, March 3, in an incredibly tough, 71-70 loss to North Carolina State in ACC tournament play in Greensboro, N.C., Murphy was on the court for 26 minutes and netted nine points while grabbing seven boards, dishing off two assists, and making one steal.

The former Londonderry High star presently ranks fourth all-time in scoring at BC (1,675 points) and second in rebounds (913).

She took time out of her busy basketball and academic schedule to attend the Londonderry High girls’ basketball squad’s quarterfinal tournament victory over the Bishop Guertin Lady Cardinals from Nashua at LHS this past Saturday night.

Former LHS star Stef Murphy has enjoyed a great senior season on the Boston College women’s hoop team. Courtesy photo

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Statewide Recall Issued for Skippy Peanut Butter

**KAITLYN G. WOODS**
**LONDONDERRY TIMES**

Peanut butter consumers should check their cabinets for Skippy Reduced Fat Peanut Butter Spread and Skippy Reduced Fat Super Chunk Peanut Butter Spread because it may be contaminated by Salmonella. On Monday, May 7, Skippy’s parent company, Uniliver, issued a recall of Skippy’s parent company, Lebensche, on behalf of Skippy’s parent company, Lebensche. The recall was issued after testing found Salmonella in a sample of Skippy Reduced Fat Peanut Butter Spread and Skippy Reduced Fat Super Chunk Peanut Butter Spread.

No cases of Salmonella have been reported by Skippy consumers as of yet, but Greater Derry Public Health Network Coordinator Garrett Simonsen said it’s important for residents to check their cabinets for Skippy products that could be contaminated.

Healthy people affected with Salmonella often experience fever, diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain, according to the New Hampshire Department of Health. Salmonella symptoms usually resolve completely in five to seven days, although it may be several months before someone who has been infected by the bacteria feels symptom free again. In rare circumstances, persons infected with Salmonella develop pains in their joints, irritation of the eyes, and painful urination.

The recall of Skippy Reduced Fat Peanut Butter Spread and Skippy Reduced Fat Super Chunk Peanut Butter Spread is limited to 16.3 ounce plastic jars with proof of purchase codes (located on the side of the jar’s label below the barcode) of 048001006812 and 048001006782, and Best-If-Used-By Dates (stamped on the lid of the jar) of MAY1612LR1, MAY1712LR1, MAY1812LR1, MAY1912LR1, MAY2012LR1 and MAY2112LR1. Any contaminated peanut butter found should be discarded.

Uniliver is offering replacement coupons that can be obtained by calling 1-800-453-9432.

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Open Space

community is supportive of our efforts.”

“Good zoning rules,” Solid Waste Advisory Committee member Marty Sragis added.

The town’s location, though, could also serve as a weakness. Its proximity to Boston, as well as to the Interstate 93 corridor, could make efforts to shield land from development difficult.

The group also identified “fragmentation” - a Swiss-cheese style of conservation, as opposed to a contiguous green belt - as a hurdle for the group.

Economic constraints, too, were on the forefront: conservation efforts are often driven by the economy and can be dependent on inconsistent funding. The town’s conservation commission receives about $3,300 a year from the town for stewardship efforts, Speltz observed.

With hard work, though, comes opportunity: the group seemed to agree that they looked forward to honing better communication with residents and marketing their mission to taxpayers.

The planned rebuilding of I-93 could provide some additional help for the group, Speltz said. “We can maybe overcome some of the fragmentation,” he said. “(Interstate) 93 splits Londonderry right in half.”

For threats, the group was again wary of the Interstate 93 corridor, could make efforts to shield land from development difficult.

The group ended the discussion with Speltz encouraging members to think about the list and continue to provide input via email until the next meeting.

“This isn’t the end of this tonight - keep those brains turning, and we’ll keep adding to this list over the next couple of weeks,” he said.

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Celebrating Seuss
Matthew Traynaham, Cassidy Dillon and Lina Rodriguez listen intently to Moose Hill Kindergarten librarian Linda Lampkin read from “Green Eggs and Ham” by Dr. Seuss on Friday afternoon. The librarian dresses in costume every year to celebrate the birthday of legendary children’s author Dr. Seuss and the national Read Across America program. Photo by Chris Paul

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School Days in Olde Londonderry

from the middle ages to the 19th century.”

More recently and closer to home, the education reformer Horace Mann reported that discipline problems had been responsible for the dislocation of 400 Massachusetts schools.

How did Londonderry students rank on the bad behavior scale? Consider the following: “It is feared that some of our schools are becoming moral pest houses on account of the prevalence in them of obscene and vulgar and profane language.” If you think this is the rant of some burnt-out 21st century educator, think again.

It’s a direct quote from the 1854 Londonderry Town Report, written by the School Committee on the state of that year’s schools. Nothing much had changed 10 years later, when profanity was a “growing vice” and there were boys so “addicted to evil that even their childish games are not played without it.”

One of the complaints we often hear today is how in the ‘old days,’ if a student caused trouble in school, his parents would compound any punishment dished out by the teacher by inflicting their own brand at home, whereas today’s parents are more likely to descend upon school officials in outrage when a teacher dares to punish their child, regardless of the offense. But wait! What about this lament from the 1868 Town Report, which indicates that parent apathy was to blame for much of the school’s ills, disciplinary and otherwise: (parents) “fail to prove, by visiting the schools, that (they) have that interest... that (they) claim.”

In the town’s largest district, only one parent had visited during the summer term. But maybe apathy isn’t so bad when we consider this, written in 1869: “The discipline of our schools will be improved when parents and citizens accord a manly and hearty support to the teacher in his efforts to secure good order, rather than extend a sneaking countenance to mischievous and thoughtless boys in their attempts to subvert it.” (Italics added)

By 1874, things seemed to have improved, as only one case of “insubordination” was reported and no teacher had to resort to “harsh expedients.” It was expected that one or more of the larger boys would “excite the animosity of his school mates and breed disturbance and anarchy” and whose “presence was always a blight,” but this report’s optimistic author, although acknowledging that such students were “not yet extinct,” felt that their “influence was on the wane.”

My intention in this article is not to criticize schools, students, teachers, administrators, societ

Number 7 School in Londonderry was on Grenier Field Road, originally Goffe’s Falls Road. Courtesy photo

Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Leach Library. If you value Londonderry’s history, consider becoming a member. A family membership is $20 a year and will help us to fulfill our mission of preserving the town’s past. We look forward to meeting you!
**Pot O’Gold Race**

The Rotary Club of Londonderry and Millenium Running have joined forces to slate the first Pot O’Gold Run for Saturday, March 19, at 2 p.m. This Irish-themed, 5K (3.1 mile) race will start and finish at the Ninety-Nine Pub in the Home Depot Plaza off Route 102 in Londonderry, with proceeds going to charities the Londonderry Rotarians support. The first 400 race registrants will receive official, long-sleeved technical shirts, and awards will be given out to the top three males and females in many age categories. For more details and/or to register for the event, visit www.potogoldrun.com. Folks will also be able to register on race day.

**Kids Coop Theatre**

Kids Coop Theatre presents the musical “Schoolhouse Rock Live! Junior” — based on the Emmy award-winning Saturday morning cartoon show from the 1970s - at the Adams Memorial Opera House in Derry on Friday, March 11, at 7 p.m., and on Saturday, March 12, at both 1 and 7 p.m. Tickets are available at Daren’s Music Center in Derry and on-line at www.kids-coop-theatre.org.

**English Classes**

Free English classes for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) are offered by the Derry Center for Adult Studies on an ongoing basis, and registration is open. Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 West Broadway, Derry, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Gilbert H. Hood Middle School, 5 Hood Road, Derry. For more information, call 432-1907, e-mail: rcatp2@yahoo.com or visit: Greater-DerryLiteracy.org.

**Memorial & Fundraiser**

A spaghetti dinner fundraiser for Eric’s Place, a camp for disadvantaged children, will take place at the American Legion, 6 Sargent Road, at 2 p.m. March 13, with two dinner seatings. All proceeds will go to Eric’s Place. Donations can be made at TD Bank, 62 Nashua Road, Londonderry. Dinner tickets are $10 per person.

**South School Dinner**

South School is having a dinner at Whippersnapper’s on March 13, to raise money for a new portable public address system for the school. Those attending should mention to the wait staff when ordering that they are with South School, and 50 percent of all meal sales go directly to South School. Kids’ meals are 99 cents for ages 12 and under, and a special sundae bar for South School patrons is $1.39.

**Blue Lions Cheerleading**

The Blue Lions are now accepting registrations for the upcoming cheerleading 2011 season. Registration forms can be found at: www.londonderrybluelions.com and are open to all cheerleaders, grades 3 to 9. Early Bird registration is going on now through April 15 at a discount rate of $125 for one cheerleader, $200 for two and $275 for three or more per family. After April 15, registration will be $150 for one, $225 for two and $300 for three or more. Contact Kristy Hanson at 898-1103 or Littlemiraclesgroup@yahoo.com with questions.

**Clothing Drive**

Donations of children’s clean, wearable clothing of all sizes maybe brought to 5 Isabel Drive. In addition, baby equipment, sheets, blankets, backpacks, and kids’ shoes are also accepted. This is a ministry in the Londonderry/Derry and Manchester communities, and all items collected are to be distributed to established outreach programs and given to the needy. Call Liz with questions at 437-6678.

**Historical Society**

The Londonderry Historical Society meets the third Tuesday of each month downstairs at the Leach Library. For more information, visit: www.Londonderryhistory.com.

**Used Books Collected**

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) of South School is raising money through donations of new and used books, CDs, DVDs, videos, records and audio books. The group has recently placed a gray book drop-off donation container “Never Too Young to Read” in the parking lot of American Kenpo Academy, and will be placed on an ongoing basis for all students, staff, and parents. All money raised through the collection will benefit the general funding of the PTA, which provides enrichment programs, field trips, safety programs, family fun nights, and guest speakers, and publishes the Hawk Talk, the school’s monthly newsletter. The PTA also provides resources for special education, occupational therapy, counseling and classroom supplies. For more information, contact Got Books at www.GotBooks.com or call 978-284-2500.

**Income Tax**

Internal Revenue Service tax forms and booklets are available at the Leach Library in the magazine rack near the elevator. New Hampshire tax forms are available at the reference desk. Contact the reference staff at 432-1112 with questions.

**Great Stone Face Award**

The New Hampshire Great Stone Face Award nominees are books selected by librarians for children in grades 4 through 6. Beginning in February, for every book read from the list of nominated titles at the Leach Library, students receive one raffle ticket. Three tickets will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a prize. Earn raffle tickets through Saturday, April 9, at 5 p.m. Voting on your favorite book from the list begins Monday, April 11, at 9 a.m., and concludes on Saturday, April 16, at 5 p.m. The raffle is open to all students in grades 4 through 6. Stop by the Children’s Room circulation desk to pick up a list of nominated books and help choose this year’s winner.

**Choir Concert**

The Gordon College Choir, directed by C. Thomas Brooks, will perform a concert at Londonderry Presbyterian Church as part of its spring touring schedule on Saturday, March 12, at 7 p.m. The 60-voice ensemble will perform from a diverse repertoire of choral literature. Admission is free, but a free will offering will be taken to help defray the Choir’s expenses.

**Library Building**

Joppa Frasch, a paraprofessional and soccer coach at LMS, is building a library for children in her homeland of Papua New Guinea, one book at a time. Ongoing donations of reading material appropriate for children in elementary and middle school are now being accepted. Those wishing to send books are encouraged to enclose photos of themselves tucked inside the books, with a few sentences about the donors and their lives in New Guinea. Books may be mailed to: Aimalu Primary School (Mararamu Village, Umboi Island), c/o Mr. George Lapu, P.O. Box 3410, LAE, Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea. For more information, send emails to Frasch at zoltan@zoltan5.com.

**Women’s Basketball**

The Londonderry Recreation Department sponsors a weekly open gym for women interested in playing basketball. The open gym is on Wednesdays from 7 to 10 p.m. at the North Elementary School gym. In the past, it has been “pick-up games” based on the number of ladies who show up. This year, the aim is to draw more consistent interest by making it more formal by forming teams. Any woman, of any age or skill level, looking to get some exercise is invited, including those who have never played basketball. For more information, call Michele Fregeau at 548-0881 or Amy Simpson at 963-6204.

**Bereavement Support**

An ongoing Bereavement Support Group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Elliot Medical Center, Londonderry. The group offers a safe place to express feelings, learn coping skills, and gain a sense of value and purpose. The group is free. To register or for more information, call social worker Barbara Pines at 552-1533.

**Folk Music**

On Thursday, March 10, at 7 p.m., the Leach Library will host the free musical program “Folk Music: Singing History,” with Random Acts of Harmony. The acoustic folk trio will perform a variety of folk songs and present the stories of their origins. Random Acts of Harmony is comprised of RandyFilliger, Rob Becker and Dick Kruppa. They perform traditional and contemporary folk tunes sung with acoustic guitar, five-string banjo and stand-up bass accompaniment. Their concerts have been featured throughout New England. The event is in the library’s lower level meeting room. Light refreshments will be served.

**Fabulous Frogs**

The Massabesic Audubon Center will be at the Leach Library on Thursday, March 10, from 4 to 5 p.m. to present...
its “Fabulous Frogs” program. Participants will learn about the frog’s life cycle and anatomy, listen to its calls and take a close look at some species that live in New Hampshire. Each session is open to 20 children.

Children’s Programs

The Children’s Room at the Leach Library will be offering the following programs as part of Spring Session 1. Advance registration is required. For more information, pick up a newsletter in the Children’s Room. After School Stories, meeting March 15, 22 and 29, and April 5. Story Time, meeting March 16, 23 and 30, and April 6. Toddler Time, meeting March 17, 24 and 31, and April 7.

Parenting Classes

“Active Parenting Now!” is presented at The Upper Room, a family resource center, 36 Tsienneto Road, for persons age 60 and above who are diagnosed with diabetes. The next meeting is Friday March 18. Facilitator, at 421-0414. For more information, contact Laurie Klotz, Amedisys Hospice Services, 70 Goodwin Road. Cost is $8 per session, and a donation of $20 for the first month from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Londonderry Senior Center. The next meeting is Friday March 18. Facilitator is registered nurse and certified diabetes educator Paul O’Harra. Call 1-800-540-2981 for further information.

Job Seekers Support

Residents struggling with issues of unemployment, which brings on financial insecurity, strained relationships with family and friends, as well as discouragement and depression, are invited to attend the Job Seekers group, sponsored by Orchard Christian Fellowship. The next meeting will be held on Mondays at 9 a.m. upstairs in the Robie House, 183 Mammoth Road. Cost is $8 for singles, couples, and families; $5 for seniors. For more information, call 509-1866 or e-mail: weareammpm@gsinet.net.

Foot Clinic

Rockingham Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice sponsors the Londonderry Diabetes Support Group, meeting the third Friday of the month from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Londonderry Senior Center. The next meeting is Friday March 18. Facilitator is registered nurse and certified diabetes educator Paul O’Harra. Call 1-800-540-2981 for further information.

Contra Dance

A New England Contra Dance with live traditional music takes place March 11 from 8 to 11 p.m. at the Londonderry Senior Center, 525 Mammoth Road. Cost is $8 for singles, couples, and families; $3 for children and $5 for seniors. For more information, call 509-1866 or e-mail: weareammpm@gsinet.net.

Book Club

The newly formed Londonderry Book & Dinner Club is now accepting members who love books and current events, and who would like to talk about both with like-minded folks over libations and a casual meal. The group is looking for readers to meet monthly for an evening of great books, robust conversations and tasty meals at local restaurants. The reading list will focus on the New York Times Book Review, especially its newer hardcovers and paperbacks in all genres. Each month the group will address the major themes of the chosen book and how they relate - or don’t - to the hot topics and current events of the day. Members will vote on the reading list and the choice of restaurant. The first informal meeting will be held in late March, with the official kickoff dinner in April. A group of six to eight is sought. For more information, call 857-366-6374.

Football & Spirit

Londonderry Youth Football and Spirit registration is still available online for football for Grades 2 through Grade 8, and cheerleading for ages 5-15, now through July, at: http://www.londonderrywildcats.com. Practices start Aug. 1 and the season runs through the fall. Live registration dates are Thursday, April 7, and Wednesday, May 11, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Londonderry Leach Library downstairs meeting room. Medical clearance forms and a flyer of league information and key dates will be available at the registration session. For general questions, contact Gary Richardson: gary Richardson@amnh.org.
College News

The following Londonderry residents were named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2011 semester:
- Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Ill. - Susan Hayes, daughter of Brian and Kathleen Hayes.
- Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Boston, Mass. - Alexander Finn, son of Gary and Deborah Finn. He is pursuing a doctorate of pharmacy degree, with an expected graduation date of 2015.
- Nichols College, Dudley, Mass. - Viviana Ruge. In order to be included on the Dean’s List, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.2 for at least 12 credit-hours and received no grades below C+ during the semester.
- Northeastern University, Boston - Kaitlyn Bean, majoring in political science; Kathryn Bever, majoring in nursing; Brittany Buffatacco, majority in nursing; Scott Carpenter, majoring in communication studies; Allison Collacchi, majoring in human services; Hilary Gabso, undeclared major; Lea Hamsmith, majoring in chemical engineering; Eoghain Kelly, majoring in journalism; Justin O’Connor, majoring in mechanical engineering; Lauren Scheckinger, majoring in graphic design; and Kerry Thompson, majoring in business administration.
- To receive this honor, a student must carry a full program of at least four courses, have a quality point average of 3.5 or greater, and have no “D” or “F” on any of the 4.0 scale, and earn a grade of “C” or above in all courses.
- Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Penn. - Haley McIntyre, a junior majoring in Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management in the College of Health and Human Development. Dean’s List requires students to have a one-semester grade point average of 3.50 or above for enrollment in a course load of 12 or more credits.
- Plymouth State University, Plymouth - Nicole Newman.
- Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Conn. - William Cavallo, Danielle Max and Bianca Simbol.
- Roger Williams University, Bristol, R.I. - Kyle D’Ursy, Caitlin Heffelmann, Laura Kelly and Samantha Roy. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean’s List that semester, provided that they have not received any of the following grades: F, I, NP or NS.
- Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, Conn. - Amanda Vine. To receive this honor, a student must achieve a 3.6 grade average, based on a 4.0 scale.
- Saint Anselm College, Manchester - Ryan Bartlett, an international relations major in the class of 2013; Deanamarie Del Vecchio, an applied physics major in the class of 2013; Alessandra Gallo, an international relations major in the class of 2011; Hilary Gorgol, a nursing major in the class of 2014; Kevin Greene, a business major in the class of 2014; and Daniel Lagasse, an education studies major in the class of 2014. To be eligible for Dean’s List, a student must compile a grade point average of 3.0 or better.
- Saint Lawrence University, Canton, N.Y. - James Curro, a junior, majoring in mathematics; Margaret Harrington, a first year student; and Jaime O’Neill, a junior, majoring in environmental studies and psychology. To be eligible for the Dean’s List at Saint Lawrence University, a student must have completed at least four semester units and have an academic grade point average of 3.6 (based on a perfect 4.0)

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