

Londonderry Times

April 7, 2016 ♦ Volume 17 – Issue 14

A FREE Weekly Publication



International Flare

Londonderry High School freshman Urvi Chakraborty performs an Indian Odissa dance to open the evening's festivities at the school's annual International Night. See more photos page 19.

Photo by Chris Paul

Updated Hazard Mitigation Plan Gets Town Council Approval

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Town Council approved an update of the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was approved by the State and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as well.

The plan is designed

to reduce or eliminate risk to people and property from a range of hazards, including wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes, winter storms and flooding.

The Hazard Mitigation Committee, comprised of Police, Fire, Highway, Building and Planning staff, held several meet-

ings starting in January to update the plan, which was last updated in 2010.

"This is a federal mandate to be eligible for future grant opportunities," Comprehensive Planner John Vogl said at Monday night's Town Council meeting. "This document is very much an encyclo-

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Londonderry Monitors State Investigation into PFOA in Wells

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Town is monitoring events related to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services' (DES) discovery of high levels of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in wells around the Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics facility in Merrimack.

The Town Council, Town Manager and Town staff have been in communication with the DES and have asked if the testing zone for PFOA should be expanded to include the closest areas in Londonderry.

"DES has committed to sharing the most recent testing results with us and assessing whether, based on those results, the testing area should be expanded to include Londonderry. We expect to have that information and a frank discussion with DES later this week," the Town said in an April 1 press release. "At this time, the Town Council believes it is important for the public to know what we know."

Areas in Bedford that purchase their water from Merrimack Village District (MVD) and private wells located in Merrimack and

Litchfield within one mile of Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics in Merrimack have detected varying levels of PFOA. The Saint-Gobain plastics plant is where the exposure to PFOA is thought to have originated.

According to a press release the DES issued on March 31, the agency has received a total of 107 drinking water test results to date. The water well samples were collected between March 9 and March 20, and the results show levels of PFOA ranging from no detection to 830 parts-per-trillion (ppt).

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Public Hearing Set for April 18 for Possible Leash Law

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Town Council is considering an amendment to the Town Code that would establish a "leash law" in Londonderry.

"To further provide public safety, there is the need to prohibit dogs from running at large, fouling and creating disturbing noise," the proposed ordinance reads.

Based on the amendment, a dog will be deemed "at large" if the dog is in, on, or being walked upon a public street, park, parkway, cemetery, town forest, trail-way or other public place in town; or on a public street, sidewalk or right-of-way adjacent to a public place and

is not secured by a leash or chain or within a carrier in the possession of a person of sufficient strength and age to effectively restrain the dog.

Curtis Boles of Hovey Road told the Council he would like to see the amendment include a restriction on dogs in town cemeteries.

Boles said he and his wife have seen dogs running loose at Pillsbury Cemetery multiple times and have observed dogs urinating on gravestones.

"It has been an ongoing problem. I don't think we should have a leash law in the cemeteries. Dogs don't need to be in there," he said, noting plots are small and dogs on leashes cross into peo-

ple's space while visiting loved ones in the cemetery. "I would strongly encourage you to not allow dogs, other than service dogs. It's not the place for them."

Chairman John Farrell told Boles the Council is "willing to look very hard at the issue and entertain it in the public hearing."

Boles recommended the Town consider install-

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Matthew Thornton Drama Club Presents 'The Lion King Jr. Musical'

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Matthew Thornton Elementary School's Drama Club is excited to present "The Lion King Junior Musical," fea-

turing bright costumes and a lively set that bring the African savanna to life on stage.

The cast and crew of 47 students have been hard at work since rehearsals be-

gan in December to prepare for opening night on April 8.

"This play involves a lot of kids," said Katy Gore, a Londonderry High School senior who volunteered her time to the school's annual production as assistant director and choreographer. "There are four separate ensembles and each of them does a lot. It's a fun show with a lot of speaking and singing parts."

Gore said adapting the musical was challenging due to the overwhelming popularity of Broadway's "The Lion King."

"It just became available last spring as a junior version," she said.

Frank Thomas, a fifth grader who plays the lead role of Mufasa, said he likes that the costumes for this year's play are unique from those of performances the school has presented in years past.

Volunteer Jen Brown made the costumes and served as music director. Volunteer Brooke Nadeau also served as a choreographer for the show.

Fifth grader Sullivan Street, who plays the role of a hyena, said performing as animals was difficult.

"It's hard to get used to because we had to squat for a long time," he said.

"I'm super proud of



Members of the Matthew Thornton Elementary School Drama Club pose during a rehearsal last week as they prepare for this week's performance.

them. This is a difficult show because there are so many moving parts; and for the kids to act as animals and stay in character is really difficult to do," Director Meg Gore said. "This is not your typical elementary school play. We always shoot for higher. We have high expectations for the kids and they always rise to the occasion. They take it seriously and they have learned so much."

"They are amazing. They have grown so much," Katy Gore said.

"We worked really hard. If we have a good audience, we'll be satisfied," said fifth grader Ellie Rosen, who plays the role of "grown-up" Nala.

"The Lion King" will open at Matthew Thornton on Friday, April 8 at 7 p.m.,

with subsequent performances on Saturday, April 9 at noon and 7 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased in advance in the Matthew Thornton lobby on Thursday, April 7 from 3 to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for children and students, and \$8 for adults if purchased

in advance; or \$5 for children and students, and \$10 for adults if purchased at the door. All tickets for the matinee on April 9 are \$5.

For additional information, email mtdramaclub@gmail.com or call (978) 201-0499.



Matthew Thornton Elementary School's Drama Club production of "Lion King Jr." features bright costumes and a lively set. Photos by Chris Paul

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Londonderry High Drama Club to Present 'Shrek the Musical'

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry High School's Drama Club is excited to present the family-friendly hit "Shrek the Musical" in April.

The cast has been rehearsing since casting was completed in December and they plan to ramp up rehearsals next week as opening night draws near.

"They have been awesome, they're really doing a great job," Drama Club advisor and producer Valerie Nelson said. "At this point we're just ready to see it all come together."

Sophomore Mary Sullivan, who plays the role of "Gingy" (the gingerbread man), said their production of Shrek is unique in

that the club hasn't performed many fantasy-based musicals and the show is a twist on the popular comedy film.

"It's really funny and it has a great message - don't be like everyone else, be yourself. It's about the fairy tale creatures taking pride in who they are," she said.

"It's a message everyone needs," Nelson said.

"Shrek the Musical" expands on the original film with more detail about the fairy tale creatures and more singing and dancing.

Nelson, who earned the New Hampshire Theatre Choreography Award, choreographed the show.

"We're so lucky to have her," Sullivan said. "She's an award-winning

choreographer in our high school. I do shows with her outside of school and she treats our shows here at the school like a professional show. She has the same standards."

In addition to professional choreography, sophomore Ben Dionne, who plays the role of Lord Farquaad, said the show features big set changes and is the school's "biggest costume show ever."

The show's costumes were created by volunteers Becky Fainer and Rosi Svenson.

"The costumes are tremendous and the effects are going to be big," Nelson said. "It's fantasy-based, it's funny, it's really light and it has recognizable characters. It's a fun play for the whole



Londonderry High School's Drama Club rehearses for their upcoming performance of "Shrek the Musical." Photo by Kaitlyn G. Woods

family and it has a lot of really good humor."

"Shrek the Musical" will open on April 14 at 7 p.m., with subsequent

shows on April 15 at 7

p.m. and April 16 at 2 p.m.

and 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for students and seniors and \$15

for adults.

To purchase tickets in advance, call Londonderry High School at 432-6941.

Police Investigate Assault

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry Police are searching for two men suspected of being involved in the assault of a person in the area of Capitol Hill Drive.

Officers responded to the apartments in the area on Tuesday, March

29 at 4:45 p.m. for a reported assault.

Police have described the persons of interest as white males in their 40s.

No suspects have been arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

Police are unable to confirm details about the victim or the nature of the

assault.

Anyone with information or who was a witness to events around the time police responded is asked to contact Det. Sgt. Patrick Cheetham with the Londonderry Police Department's Detective Division at 432-1118.

Leash Law

Continued from page 1

ing at town cemeteries a sign similar to those at Derry cemeteries, which include an explicit restriction on dogs. The Council directed the Town Manager to look into what

restrictions the Town of Derry places on use of town cemeteries.

Additionally, Councilor Tom Dolan said if the Town is considering a town-wide leash law, councilors may want to revisit discussions of establishing a dog park.

"We're still in the

process of looking for land to locate the dog park," Town Manager Kevin Smith said.

The Town Council will hold the public hearing on the proposed amendment on April 18 at 7 p.m. in the Moose Hill Council Chambers at Town Hall.



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Editorial

Listening to the Voters

Last year, voters turned down engineering costs for a proposed auditorium for the Londonderry School District. The project didn't go away, however, and remains on the Capital Improvement Plan.

This year, just as they have in years past, Hampstead voters defeated a bond request for construction of new classrooms and renovations at Central School, and removal of portable classrooms. The ballots had hardly been counted and put away, however, before the School Board agreed to pursue the project yet again.

While neither of those actions goes against the "no means no" rule in the state, which doesn't allow a project to take place in a given year if voters turn it down at the polls, they do beg the question as to whether boards of elected officials pursue their own agendas regardless of the no votes of their constituents.

What makes it worse are comments by the proponents of the defeated warrant articles that voters misunderstood or didn't realize what it was the project would have done. What never seems to rise to the level of discussion is that residents may well have cast their "no" vote because they didn't think they could afford a "want" when there were so many other requests for "needs."

The Central School issue is espe-

cially interesting because a second warrant article on that same ballot would have funded renovations – and "needs" – at the school but not the proposed new construction. Had that passed, work on significant improvements could have taken place this year. But it was all or nothing for the School Board, which chose not to support the lower-priced article, and both the bond and the smaller article went down to defeat.

Bringing a money issue back to the voters over and over again is not necessarily wrong. Both Hampstead and Sandown were able to replace their seriously inadequate police stations by perseverance – and also by cutting costs.

But we aren't seeing cost-cutting as a priority in these school matters. Instead, ego seems to get in the way, and to lead down a path that ends in personal attacks, both of voters in general and of vocal proponents of a different point of view.

And we also don't see a desire for understanding or respect for people who just don't think they can afford multi-million-dollar projects, or who don't equate funding a new building with support for educating students.

The bottom line is that respecting the voter is vital in getting projects passed on the warrant. That would be a position worth promoting.

Town Council Approves Contract to Buy New Recycling Bins

KATLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Town Council has approved a contract with Schaefer Systems to provide recycling carts to Londonderry households in advance of the Town's new bi-weekly recycling program, which is to kick off in July.

Schaefer Systems submitted the lowest bid of \$401,625 for 8,500, 96-gallon recycling bins at a cost of \$47.25 per unit; and \$11,556 for 300, 35-gallon wheeled cart bins at a cost of \$38.52 per unit.

The total cost of purchasing the new bins is \$413,181, to be paid from the Reclamation Trust Fund.

Public Works Director Janusz Czyzowski said he anticipates the Town will increase their collection of recyclables, despite the shift to bi-weekly collections, as the volume of the new bins is substantially larger than that of

the bins residents were previously using to collect recyclables.

Residents who want an additional bin for collecting recyclables may purchase one from the Town at the same unit price the Town paid. Households of more than six people will receive an additional bin free if requested.

Chairman John Farrell asked town staff to consider opening the Town's Drop-Off Center sometime between Christmas and New Year's Day.

In other business at the Monday night Council meeting:

- The Council approved the expenditure of \$2,400 from the Reclamation Trust Fund for improvements to the Town's Drop-Off Center.

The addition of a mobile storage container for collecting electronic recyclable material at the Drop-Off Center will provide for the proper recycling and reclamation of

wastes and has been identified as a need in the Town's Capital Improvement Program CIP), according to Czyzowski.

The Town's Drop-Off Center opened last weekend and will remain open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., weather permitting, until Nov. 19, when the Center will close for the season.

Payment for drop-offs is accepted by check only.

Czyzowski said the first day of operation went smoothly.

- The Council approved the expenditure of \$1,960 from the Expendable Maintenance Trust Fund for winter maintenance at Town Hall, the Leach Library and the Cable Access Center (\$1,045); as well as for drainage and swale maintenance behind the Londonderry Police Station parking area (\$915).

- The Council appointed Jay Hooley to the Joint Negotiating Committee with a 5-0 vote.

Hazard Plan

Continued from page 1

pedic document. It follows a federal template every town in the State follows. There are no mandates attached."

The Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission moderated the meetings, helping the Committee to identify the community's vulnerability to each hazard and to propose new strategies to potentially mitigate or reduce future damage.

Former Fire Chief and Hazard Mitigation Committee member Al Sypek told the Council at their April 4 meeting that the town must update their plan every five years to qualify for grants through FEMA for non-emergency mitiga-

tion items "that might cause the Town to respond repeatedly because of poor design or codes."

Sypek said top priorities identified in the plan include upgrading the Town's radio communication system and installing emergency access lanes in the Musquash Conservation Area.

"If you look at Lake Massabesic in Manchester, they have fire lanes that are gated and they serve as hiking and horse trails. These access lanes can serve two purposes, both for public safety and recreation," he said.

"Radio communications is a safety issue and should be addressed immediately," Councilor Jim Butler said.

Fire Chief Darren O'Brien said the Depart-

ment has been collaborating with Highway staff and Police to investigate infrastructure in town and determine what existing infrastructure the Town could build upon.

"We hope to have something for this upcoming budget cycle," he said.

Recalling an agreement with AT&T to allow the Town to install an additional antenna to serve the Fire Department on a tower located behind Town Hall, the Council directed town staff to investigate the original site plan for the tower to see if the agreement exists.

The Council asked for updates on the progress to address the telecommunications weakness at their meetings on May 2 and June 6.

Londonderry Times

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www.nutpub.net

Owner/Publisher – Debra Paul Editor – Leslie O'Donnell
Art Director – Chris Paul

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Council Proclaims Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Town Council has proclaimed next week as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Londonderry.

Per their proclamation, the Council urges all residents to recognize the employees of the Londonderry Fire and Police Communication Centers for their diligence and professionalism in helping to keep the Town safe.

"We take a moment in every Council meeting to recognize first respon-

ders, but we don't often remember until someone says that the real first responder is the person who first answers your call when you have no idea what to do because something awful has happened," Police Chief Bill Hart said at the Council's April 4 meeting.

National Safety Telecommunicators Week is to be recognized in Londonderry from April 10-16.

In addition to serving as the calm, guiding voice to a caller experiencing an emergency, the Town's telecommunications offi-

cers "negotiate the terrain" police officers and firefighters walk into when responding to a call, according to Hart.

"The safety of our officers is dependent on the quality and accuracy of information obtained by all public safety dispatchers who gather information from those who telephone calls," he said. "We have some great folks who work in the Town of Londonderry. They are the reason folks leave what is a tough time feeling satisfied with the quality of service."



Fire Battalion Chief Mike McQuillen, Police Lt. Tim Jones, Police Telecommunications Officer (TCO) Amelia McKeever, Police TCO Jason Pinault, Fire TCO Elizabeth Mahon and Police Capt. Chris Gandia are pictured with the Town Council's proclamation of April 10-16 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Photo by Kaitlyn G. Woods

Police Investigate Burglaries Near Mammoth and High Range Roads

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry Police are investigating a string of burglaries to the east of Mammoth Road that appear to be related.

Det. Chris Olson said there have been three burglaries and three attempted burglaries between Mammoth Road and High Range Road.

Neighbors of the

homes that were burglarized reported a man knocked on their door and asked if their car was for sale, although there was no indication the homeowner was selling a vehicle.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, 5 feet 10 inches tall, with an extremely thin build.

Neighbors of the burglaries also reported seeing

the same two vehicles in the area when the burglaries occurred - a two-tone Mercury Mountaineer and an older model red Rav-4.

Homeowners reported electronics and jewelry were stolen from their homes in the burglaries.

Anyone with information related to the burglaries or the suspect should call the Police Department at 432-1118.

Londonderry dispatchers process over 100,000 calls annually.

Police dispatchers recognized at the Council meeting were Amelia McKeever, who has served the Town for about four years; and Jason Pinault, who has served for nearly 15

years.

Fire Telecommunications Operator Elizabeth Mahon was also recognized for 20 years of service to the Town.

Fire Chief Darren O'Brien said Mahon, who joined the Department in 1996, was the Town's first

full-time civilian dispatcher.

"Each dispatcher is the unseen individual providing a calm voice when emergencies arise. They serve with compassion, empathy and professionalism, keeping the Town safe," Hart said.

SPECIAL EVENTS!

Thursday, April 14th at 5PM
Thursday, April 28th at 6PM



SPECIAL PRESENTATION FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Thursday, April 14th, 5:00pm

Join Jake Lowrey, American Veterans Aid, to learn how elderly veterans can qualify and receive benefits to assist with the cost of assisted living. Dinner will be served.

The Yard Restaurant, Manchester, NH

Thursday, April 28th, 6:00pm

Nancy Emerson Lombardo will present "Healthy Eating for a Healthy Brain". Utilizing the principles of the Mediterranean Diet, Dr. Emerson Lombardo will show us how to improve our brain and body health. A specialty dinner will be served.

Valentino's Restaurant, Hudson

Space is limited! RSVP to our April 14th program no later than April 11th. For our April 28th program, please RSVP by April 25th. Email us at info@allamericanatlondonderry.com or call us at 603-537-9898.

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Matthew Thornton DI Team Promotes Helmet Safety

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Matthew Thornton Elementary School's fourth grade Destination Imagination (DI) team hosted a community event on helmet safety at St. Jude Church last week as part of their competition in the State Finals.

The students performed a skit to raise awareness for their campaign to pass a law in New Hampshire that would require motorcyclists to wear a helmet.

"Too many people have fatalities due to not wearing a helmet. The helmet law is only for minors in New Hampshire," team member Jake Perron said. "I talked to a fireman and he told me there are about 10 concussions a month and 26 deaths a year in New Hampshire due to not wearing a helmet."

In addition to holding their community performance about helmet safety on March 29, the students created a meme they printed and posted in local schools and other town facilities, as

well as on T-shirts. The students also worked to create a slideshow for their presentation at the D.I. State Finals on April 2.

Members of the fourth grade team include Perron, Myleigh Brennan, Dylan Dempkoski, William Buckley, Alec St. Hilaire, Ethan Munro and Quinton Delorey.

Delorey said he enjoys DI because it offers the opportunity to be creative and teaches teamwork. "Everyone works together," Dempkoski said.

"Teamwork is key,"

Buckley agreed.

"They have all grown since the beginning," team manager Gia Delorey said. "They had to get through a lot of hurdles."

For example, Buckley, who was previously anxious to act before a crowd, played one of the biggest roles in their performance last week.

"It's great seeing the kids step up," Delorey said. "They have switched roles to cover for each other and be there for the team. It's nice how they come together."



Matthew Thornton fourth grade Destination Imagination team members Jake Perron, left, Quinton Delorey, Myleigh Brennan, Dylan Dempkoski and William Buckley presented a community event on helmet safety at St. Jude Parish.

Two LHS Teams Qualify for Destination Imagination Globals

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry High School has two Destination Imagination (DI) teams that advanced at the State Finals competition in Knoxville, Tenn., The Global Finals take place May 25-28.

The high school's Improv team, "Five Guys, with Some Exceptions," and its Technical Challenge team will join a university level team of Lon-

donderry graduates from the Class of 2013 at Global Finals from May 25-28.

The Five Guys Improv team also earned a DI Renaissance Award for engineering, design and performance of their "instant challenge" portion of the State Finals tournament on April 2.

Destination Imagination is a competition that challenges students in a variety of tasks, testing a wide range of skills. Scoring is based on each team's performance of an



Londonderry High School's Technical Challenge Team members Jimmy Fitzgibbons, left, Hannah Brown, Gillian Lynch, Jillian Fitzgibbons, Ian Goodspeed and Team Manager William O'Connor earned a first-place finish at the Destination Imagination State Finals and will advance to the Global Finals. Courtesy photos



Londonderry High School's Improv Team Manager Eric Melanson, left, is pictured with team members Duncan Campbell, Trevor Melanson, Evan Plevinsky, Julia Fitzgibbons and Team Manager Craig Plevinsky. The team earned a first place at the Destination Imagination State Finals and will advance to the Globals.

instant challenge, which is assigned on the spot during competition, as well as their presentation of a challenge prepared beforehand.

Each of the teams' prepared challenges is performed in front of an audience, while the instant

challenge is completed in private. Teams are not allowed to talk about their instant challenge to anyone except one another and their team manager until after Global Finals.

High scores are awarded to teams that find the

most creative solutions to a problem.

Matthew Thornton Elementary School's elementary Project Outreach team finished fifth at the State Finals with its campaign to raise awareness for helmet safety and pursue a New Hampshire law that would require motorcyclists to wear helmets (see related story above). The students held a community event at St. Jude Parish in advance of the State Finals, at which they performed a skit to promote their campaign.

Members of the fourth grade team include Jake Perron, Myleigh Brennan, Dylan Dempkoski, William Buckley, Alec St. Hilaire, Ethan Munro and Quinton Delorey.

Londonderry High School's Technical Challenge team was tasked

with building a vehicle with two different propulsion systems and two different methods of movement.

The team's vehicle moved on skis as part of one propulsion system, rather than wheels, according to Jimmy Fitzgibbons, a freshman who has been competing with the team for many years.

"We developed the system little by little. We started off with something very odd. It was more of a crawling machine. Then we switched to sliding with the skis we attached to the vehicle and drill-powered wheels," he said.

Members of the Technical Challenge team include Fitzgibbons, Jillian Fitzgibbons, Ian Goodspeed, Hannah Brown and Gillian

Continued on page 7

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Fire Department Honors Members at Recognition Ceremony

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry Fire Department recognized the accomplishments and career milestones of members at its fourth annual Recognition Ceremony.

"We take this time to honor firefighters that achieved career service milestones, promotions, retirements, and those that went above and beyond their regular duties to serve the department and the citizens," Fire Chief Darren O'Brien said at the March 26 ceremony.

Deborah Pendergast, director of the New Hampshire Fire Standards, Training and EMS, served as guest speaker for the event, a joint effort between the Fire Department and the Londonderry Professional Firefighters Local 3160 Union.

Those who received awards recognizing major accomplishments from the past year were nominated, then vetted by a review committee consisting of seven representatives from the Department membership in a peer-driven process, according to a press release.

Earning top honors was Eugene Jastrem, who was named the Department's 2016 Fire Officer of the Year.

Members James Bilo-deau and David Johnson were also recognized for 30 years of service and Department Chaplin Chet Ham, who died in January, was honored with Support Services Member of the Year.

Certificates of Merit for members' response to an incident involving a patient who experienced cardiac arrest at the Millennium Mile were presented to Firefighter Benjamin Blake, Firefighter Michael England, Battalion Chief Fred Heinrich, Telecommunications Operator Elizabeth Mahon, Telecommunications Operator Christopher Schofield, Lt. Paramedic Donald Waldron and Battalion Chief Kevin Zins.

Also recognized with Certificates of Merit for the emergency transport of a family member were Firefighter/Paramedic Bruce Hallowell, Firefighter Zach O'Brien and Schofield.

Lt. James "Bo" Butler was recognized with a Certificate of Merit for his work with Honor Flight New England, a non-profit dedicated to honoring America's most senior veterans with a trip to Washington, D.C., to visit and reflect at their memorials at no cost.

In addition to recognizing members for their response to major events in the previous year, the ceremony also celebrated members who have completed probation, reached a 10-year incremental anniversary, received a promotion or achieved retirement.



Battalion Chief Jim Roger, center, presents Lt. Eugene Jastrem with the Londonderry Fire Department's Fire Officer of the Year award.

Photo by Paul MacCallum

LHS Teams

Continued from page 6

Lynch.

The high school's Improv team was challenged with performing a four-minute improvisational presentation within a confined space, showing how characters work together to address a news flash and integrating a mysterious stranger and a team-created miscellaneous prop.

In competition, students have only three minutes to prepare after learning which space they are required to perform in and what their newsflash is.

In the State Finals, the team's performance took place in the crew quarters of the international space station.

"Our other element was a newsflash about how a time capsule had

been opened on earth and the contents surprised people," LHS junior Julia Fitzgibbons said.

As they look forward to Global Finals, Fitzgibbons said her team will continue to research the 12 places they may be assigned to include in their skits and improve on their prop.

Improv team member Trevor Melanson said they will also continue to hone their improvisational skills.

"We flow well together. Most of us have known each other for several years," he said.

Melanson and Fitzgibbons are also members of the high school's Improv Club.

Members of the high school's Five Guys Improv Team are Evan Plevinsky, Duncan Campbell, Fitzgibbons and

Melanson.

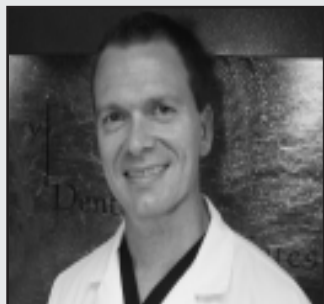
Fitzgibbons said the most valuable skills she has learned through DI are related to collaborating with others.

"I've learned so much through DI. Teamwork is one of the biggest things - how to work with people and listen to people's ideas, and how to use what you're given and have the best possible outcome. Those things have led me so far in DI and in school," Fitzgibbons said.

"I have learned to adapt to different situations," said Melanson, who has experienced DI Global Finals, but not in competition with his own team.

"I'm looking forward to meeting all the people there," he said. "It's such an enjoyable time."

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Yet some herbal supplements, including products labeled as "natural", have drug-like effects that can be dangerous. So it's important to do your homework and investigate potential benefits and side effects of herbal supplements before you buy. If you have health issues, it's essential that you talk with your doctor before trying herbal supplements. In some high-risk situations, your doctor may recommend that you avoid herbal supplements altogether. You may be placing yourself at risk by using herbal supplements. You may want to consider some of these things before taking supplements.

Be careful if you are taking prescription or over-the-counter (OTC) medications. Some herbs can cause serious side effects when mixed with prescription and OTC drugs such as aspirin, blood thinners or blood pressure medications. Talk to your doctor about possible interactions.

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, medications that may be safe for you as an adult may be harmful to your fetus or your breast-feeding infant. As a general rule, don't take any medications, prescription, OTC or herbal, when you're pregnant or breast-feeding unless your doctor approves.

If you are having surgery, many herbal supplements can affect the success of surgery. Some may decrease the effectiveness of anesthetics or cause dangerous complications, such as bleeding or high blood pressure. Tell your doctor about any herbs you're taking or consider-

ing taking as soon as you know you need surgery. Also, if you are younger than 18 or older than 65 consult your doctor. Older adults may metabolize medications differently. And few herbal supplements have been tested on children or have established safe doses for children.

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Family Faces Rising Medical Bills for Digestive Ills

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

A Londonderry family struggling to pay medical bills and their mortgage is turning to the community for help in their time of need.

Deanna Sheldon, a longtime bus driver for the Londonderry School District, said her health has deteriorated so significantly that she can no longer work and her husband is working overtime with his own health issues to support the family's mounting medical bills.

"I ran into one of my students recently in the grocery and he said, 'I haven't seen you in a while, you're not back?' I told him it was for medical reasons. It just hurt my heart. When I got back in the car I started crying because I miss my kids and I want to work, but I can't because I'm just too sick," she said.

According to specialists with whom the Sheldon family has consulted, and who completed micro array chromosome testing, Deanna has a duplication and her husband, William, has a deletion. Their three children have mutated genes.

Sheldon said she initially sought treatment through traditional medical providers, but found the medication they prescribed only made her and her family's condition worse.

The family has suffered a host of medical problems, including parasitic infection, adrenal exhaustion, heart murmur, Candida, anxiety, depression, hypothyroidism, and Lyme disease.

Integrative Health Coach Dot Blair of South Carolina established a gofundme page to raise money to purchase the family a Bemer, a device said to



The Sheldons - William; Mitchell, age 17; Dean, age 18; Deanna and Kaylyn, age 13 - are raising funds through crowdfunding website gofundme to purchase a medical device to manage health issues the family is experiencing. Courtesy photo

improve restricted circulation in the smallest blood vessels to boost the body's immune system.

There is only one

other child in the U.S. that has the disease these three siblings have, according to Blair.

Sheldon said she does-

n't know what caused the significant imbalance in her family's digestive systems, but she suspects it may have been a water filtration device at their home that was exposed to algae.

The road to healing requires a mostly plant-based diet and expensive supplements Sheldon said her family can't afford.

Sheldon's children are seeing doctors in Boston and the medical bills, as well as the expense of traveling for the visits, has become such a burden she fears they will lose their home.

"I'm unable to work and stuck between losing

our home or staying ill because we can't support the supplements to balance our stomach," she said. "When I go to the food pantry, they don't have the kind of food we need. We can't eat bread because that will feed the bad bacteria and make our condition worse."

In addition to reaching out for assistance from the community, Sheldon said she is hoping to raise awareness for the impact imbalances of the gut can have on people's health.

For more information about the Sheldon family or to make a donation, visit www.gofundme.com/j3tq5w64.

No Injuries After Car Crashes into Restaurant

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

A North Carolina man who was driving while intoxicated crashed his vehicle into Café Teresa on Nashua Road (Route 102) last week.

Londonderry Police and Fire responded to reports of the crash at 4:41 p.m. March 30. No one inside the building was injured and the driver was unharmed in the crash.

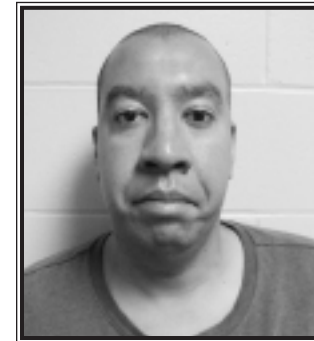
Fire crews worked quickly to assess the building for structural damage

and determined the restaurant was structurally sound, according to Battalion Chief Jim Roger.

"Luckily, the way the car went into the building, it just missed the supports," he said. "We were really fortunate no one was sitting right behind the window."

Roger said the restaurant owner told first responders she had customers who were going to sit at the table, but decided to go to the bar area.

Driver Jeremy Scott Greene, 37, told fire crews he thought his vehicle



Jeremy Scott Greene

was in park.

"It could have been worse," Roger said.

The Town's building inspector was called to the scene and he also determined the building

was structurally sound.

The restaurant closed the dining area the car had crashed into, but was able to keep the bar area open.

"The staff and owners handled the situation really well and rolled with the punches. They took it in stride," Roger said.

Greene was charged with Driving While Intoxicated (2nd Offense). He was released on \$1,500 personal recognizance bail and is scheduled to face his charges in Derry's 10th Circuit Court on April 5.

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Londonderry's PVC Pirates are on a Winning Streak

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry's For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics team, the PVC Pirates, is on a winning streak.

Having won its two key scoring competitions, the team ranks first in New England and is looking forward to a strong showing at this year's New England District Championship the weekend of April 13 in Hartford, Conn.

With about 40 regularly attending members, this year's team has engineered a robot that can carry a foam ball through an obstacle course and even scale a castle.

"Our climber has worked flawlessly," member Dan Pleva said. "We were one of three teams who were climbing consistently at the Rhode Island District competition."

The students broke into teams, focusing on fabrication of the robot, software and website design and working on LED lights for the robot in engineering.

"There's something for everyone," said team captain Alex Peterson, a senior.

Students who gravitate to the arts enjoy designing the website and graphics, while students who are interested in public speaking gain valuable experience presenting to the judges in competition.

Senior members of the team mentor the newbies and teach valuable skills

like coding and manufacturing.

"Anything you want to learn, you can," Peterson said, noting 100 percent of Londonderry's FIRST members have gone on to higher education or enlisted in the military.

There is also \$10 million in unclaimed scholarships for FIRST students, according to Peterson.

This year's FIRST games kicked off on Jan. 9, after which the team had six weeks to build a robot that could pick up a 10-inch-diameter foam ball and carry it over obstacles safely and quickly to score a goal. The students earn bonus points for climbing the castle and for shooting the ball.

Between competitions students are permitted to take their robot out of its sealed bag for a total of six hours of work time and may remove or replace 30 pounds of materials.

As they look forward to the New England District Championship, students said they are hoping to design an effective means of shooting their ball into a goal.

In addition to their first-place finishes in competition this year, the PVC Pirates have earned two Blue Banners - the Engineering Excellence Award at the Rhode Island District competition and the Judge's Award at the North Shore District in Reading, Mass.

"We're looking to get more," Peterson said.

Machining mentor Jim

Browne, a local professional who volunteers his time to assist students with producing the parts for their robot, said the students' craftsmanship stands out in competition.

"I'm really proud of this team. They have done a lot. It's a very technical process and they're eager to learn and they've really taken to it," he said.

Unlike other teams that feed designs into computerized machines to produce the parts for their robots, Londonderry's team members are working on machines that date back to the 1960s to handcraft their parts.

"We find there is more benefit for students to learn the process," Peterson said.

According to Browne, it takes a very high level of precision and skill to pro-



Londonderry High School FIRST Robotics team member Bethany Costello, a sophomore, works at the lathe to shape a metal piece for their robot.

duce parts as accurately as Londonderry's team members have.

Peterson said one piece took the team a week to produce on the lathe, a machine used for sanding and cutting metal.

"One of the best parts was watching the judges

react when they said they made it by hand. They really know what went into that," Browne said.

Students are always welcome to join the high school's FIRST team, regardless of their experience level or what year they are in school, accord-

ing to Peterson, who noted an important part of the team structure is that the more experienced members mentor their newer teammates.

"New team members' biggest regret coming in is always that they didn't join sooner," he said.

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– Joe Yannetty, cancer survivor



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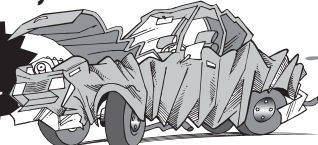
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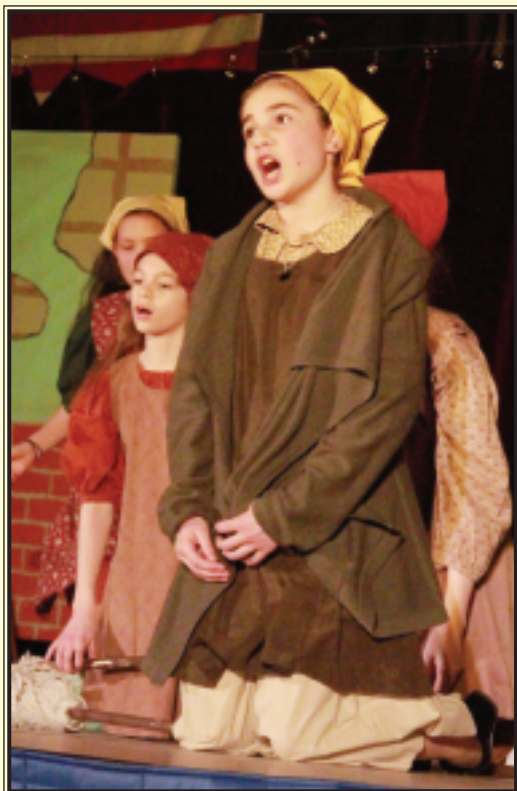
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Elizabeth Kane, ER Patient
Derry, New Hampshire



South Elementary School's Drama Club performed "Annie Jr." last week at the school with shows during the day for fellow students and evening performances on Thursday and Friday. The part of Annie was played by Teresa Bompastore and Jazmyn Lundrgan.

Photos by Chris Paul

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LONDONDERRY SPORTS

Lancer Hardball Squad Aims at Top of Division I Again

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High School baseball squad made it to the Division I championship games in both 2013 and 2014, falling to the Exeter High Blue Hawks in the earlier year before besting the arch-rival Pinkerton Academy Astros in the big contest two years ago.

In light of those facts, the Lancers' 2015 finish - a 13-8 record and ninth-place tournament seed with a season-ending loss in the tourney quarterfinals - was something of a disappointment.

But despite the fact that the Spaulding High Red Raiders rose to the

top of the division and grabbed the crown last spring, the Division I field appears to be wide open this season. And longtime LHS coach Brent Demas would like nothing more than to see his promising crew bust through the crowded field and get back to the title contest again.

"There really isn't a team this year in Division I that is head and shoulders above anyone else. The parity this season should make things very interesting," said Demas.

The 2016 Lancer crew features a mix of veteran talent and promising newcomers that has mentor Demas excited about

what could come to pass.

"We have a solid defense and deeper pitching than most teams, two key areas to be strong in," said Demas. "Offensively, we need the boys to be smart and students of the game. This team has good athleticism and is already coming together nicely. We have experience in key positions and youthful talent in others, and this should be a fun year."

The squad's returning starters include seniors Jim Zimolka (center fielder), Nick Musto (pitcher/first base), and Tim McEachern (outfielder/pitcher/catcher), and juniors Jon Meskell (third base) and Brody Dupuis (infield-

er/pitcher/designated hitter).

Other varsity returnees include seniors Cam Fennell (outfielder) and Noah Tavano (pitcher) and juniors Xander LaPlante (catcher/pitcher) and Nick Salcito (pitcher/shortstop).

The crew of newcomers includes senior outfielder Troy Nielsen, juniors Marc Brickley (catcher/designated hitter) and Tom Houston (second baseman), and sophomores Nate Sullivan (shortstop/pitcher), Dakota Johnson (shortstop/outfielder/pitcher), Rick Perry (second baseman/pitcher), and Anthony Piriolli (first baseman/pitcher/designated hitter).

The Lancers will begin their new campaign by playing host to the defending D-I champs from Spaulding on April 13.



Lancer baseball's promising newcomer Rick Perry warms up during batting practice at the ballfield recently. Photo by Chris Pantazis

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Lady Lancer Tracksters Aim to Put Good Mix to Good Use

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

A dozen key returnees combined with a slew of other ath-

letes with important varsity experience mixed in with some promising newcomers should make the Londonderry High School

girls' outdoor track and field squad a real player in Division I again this spring.

Longtime coach Sue Johnson's 2015 Lady Lancer contingent posted a 3-2 regular season record and then went on to be the runner-up at the Division I championship meet. And the LHS girls' younger athletes on last year's squad won the annual Freshman-Sophomore Meet.

When looking at her roster this spring, Johnson saw a great many reasons for optimism, especially if her battle-tested veterans can perform well and fulfill vital leadership roles.

"As always, team success will depend on individual success," said Johnson. "Our veterans need to lead the way and set the example at practices and meets. If they do their job well and our rookies follow their example, we're in a very good place for achieving both individual

and team goals. That puts pressure on all our girls to be their best as role models when working out at practice, performing in meets, and relating to their peers and coaches as good team members. It's a challenge that we are all in together."

The Lady Lancers' key returnees include seniors Yorgelis Ortiz (sprints and jumps), Andrea Woolbridge (versatile), Madison McKivergan (distances), Jordan Dufresne (versatile) and Courtney

Guay (middle-distances), juniors Devyn Enwright (versatile), Bella Ziolek (mids), Kaitlyn Marchant (long sprints), and Ellie Goodspeed (sprints), and sophomores Jessica Brien (sprints and jumps), Alex Seeley (mids), and Kalin Gregoire (mids).

The team's lengthy list of other varsity returnees includes seniors Olivia Gagan (sprints and jumps), Sarah Moriarty (throws), and Juliana Slavoski, and the roster also includes some 12th graders who

will be doing track and field for the first time, including LHS all-state basketball standout Kate Balcom (versatile) and Hannah Cohen (versatile).

When asked what opposing teams she expects to be among the strongest in D-I this spring, Johnson responded, "Based on indoor results and last year, Bedford, Bishop Guertin, and Pinkerton."

The Lady Lancers get their 2016 season officially under way next Tuesday, April 12 in Concord.



Londonderry Lancers girls track star Yorgelis Ortiz hopes to help her team to the top of the DI standings this season. Photo by Chris Pantazis

LHS Boys Track Looks Ahead

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The 2016 Londonderry High School boys' outdoor track and field contingent has no shortage of talented and battle-tested seniors in its fold as it embarks on a new campaign next Tuesday, April 12 with a road trip to Concord.

But the younger athletes who are massed around those skilled 12th graders are the ones who will have a considerable amount of attention and pressure on them as veteran coach Matt Smith's Lancers strive to snag a Division I title in a few months.

"We will need our younger athletes to continue to develop and hopefully be able to contribute at the Division I

meet," said Smith. "We have a great group of seniors who are some of the best athletes in their respective events, but our supporting cast, so to speak, has to fill in the gaps around them for us to be successful."

The returning senior stars, who helped their 2015 LHS outdoor contingent finish a strong second at the D-I meet last year, include versatile Trevor Guay (hurdles, long jump), Derek Davies (400-meters, field events), Mark Gigliotti (400m, relays), Noah Schrank (distances), Kyle Foden (throws); Cullen Enwright (javelin, discus), Jared Kane (distances), Josh Wasserman (distances), and Bailey Hamilton. Junior distance man Chris Zaino is also a key Lancer

returnee.

Other seasoned returnees include juniors Connor Keeley (distances), Jacob Ehl (throws/sprints), and Declan Hotter (distances), and sophomores Cam Taranto (sprints), Avery Bonnano (sprints), Jake Donnelly (distances), Brian Metro (distances), and Nate Seeley (distances).

The locals' promising newcomers include junior Xavier Cora (throws), sophomore Ben Johnson (sprints), and freshmen Khalique Bagley (sprints), Carter Letalien (distances), and Kyle Wheeler (distances).

When asked which D-I teams he expects to be among the strongest this spring, Smith named Pinkerton, Nashua North, and Merrimack.

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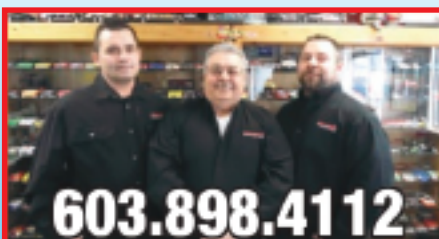
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LHS Boys' Tennis Aims to Improve Upon its 2015 Campaign

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

As far as wins and losses were concerned, the 2015 Londonderry High boys' tennis team ended up with rather scant success to celebrate, not winning a match until its final contest of the campaign.

But coach Janice Norwesh knew that her team would have its chal-

lenges, and she saw and was greatly pleased with plenty of growth from her charges.

The Lancers had four of their top six players from last year's team move on, but this spring's squad still has a slew of returnees who learned a lot last season and the LHS crew also boasts a bunch of incoming youngsters who would love to

get the chance to shoot for the top six as well.

The returnees include senior co-captains Dan Pleva and Sean Enright, both of whom played in top six singles slots for Londonderry last year.

Their fellow seniors Gage Johnson and Luc Velie both bagged some important varsity experience last spring, and sophomores Denis Geiger

and Ryan Leo are both back in the fold and aiming to do strong work in top singles slots.

The Lancers' seventh through 12th slot players - as of the official start of the season this past Monday at home against Winnacunnet of Hampton - included sophomore returnee Tyler Cullen followed by newbies Quentin Caruso (a sophomore)

and freshmen Cam Ness, Ben Doris, Josh Galluzzo, and Derik Pignone.

Norwesh wasn't certain that she'd be able to return for the 2016 season due to illness, but school athletic director Howard Sobolov stuck with her and the coach exhibited her trademark excitement and optimism in talking about her team before the first point was scored in a

regular season battle.

"Our success as a new and constantly growing team is not based on wins or losses. Our success is based on goal-setting and achieving those goals on a weekly basis," said the coach. "I'm looking forward to a very successful season with a great group of boys. I see my team growing every year."

Lancer Laxmen Look for Some 2015 Reserves to Step Up

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Following his first year as the head coach of the Londonderry High boys' varsity lacrosse squad, Sean LeBlanc had quite a few reasons to be pleased with the performances and overall work of his charges.

The 2015 Lancers posted a 13-5 record but only made it as far as the Division I tournament quarterfinals before being eliminated by the Souhegan High Sabers from Amherst.

This spring LeBlanc rolls into his second season as the head man of the Lancers, and there are four key returning starters back in the fold from the 2015 crew and a total of 13 varsity returnees from that contingent.

And at the heart of the Londonderry crew's 2016 hopes is optimism that players who were in back-up roles last spring will be able to advance and take over more prominent roles and do well in them this season.

Those vital returning starters include seniors Dave Wiedenfeld (an attack), Nick Donnelly (defense), and Bobby McEachern (defense), and junior attack Sean Snyder.

The other varsity returnees who will be counted upon to take over bigger jobs include 12th-graders Max Hastings (attack), Casey Park (attack), John Galluzzo (midfield), and Ryan Kelly (middie), juniors Peter Navarro (middie), Merrill Neiman (middie), Tyler Grant (middie and face-off specialist), and Alex Faw-

cett (goalie), and sophomore Corey Hicks (defense).

The Lancers' most promising newcomer is sophomore midfielder Nate Andrews.

"We will have quite a few players previously in reserve roles who will need to step into key roles on both offense and defense," said LeBlanc. "And we're hoping to improve our face-off percentage from last year and gain more possessions."

When thinking in terms of what Division I will offer in the way of top

competition this spring, LeBlanc listed the defending D-I champions from Pinkerton Academy, a Bishop Guertin crew from Nashua that won the previous five divisional crowns before falling to Pinkerton last year, and the Souhegan contingent that ended the Lancers' title hopes last season along with the Bedford High Bulldogs.

The LHS laxmen will get their 2016 campaign rolling officially next Monday, April 11 when they host those Bedford Bulldogs.



The Lancer Lax squad will get their season underway on Monday, April 11 when they host the Bedford Bulldogs. Photo by Chris Pantazis

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Pitching is Key as LHS Softball Aims for the Top of D-I

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Longtime Londonderry High School varsity softball coach Wayne MacDougall has seen a tremendous amount in his many years at his post. But no matter what year it is or what the circumstances may be, MacDougall almost always insists that pitching is the key to how far his Lady Lancers will go in their hunt for a title.

MacDougall - a retired math teacher from LHS - had his 2015 LHS contingent post a strong 15-6 record last spring. But the sixth-seeded Lady Lancers had their run toward a championship end in



Lancer softball player Katrina Rivard and her team gear up for the new season. The returning junior will be playing left field. Photo by Chris Pantazis

the Division I quarterfinals with a road loss to the always-tough Salem High Lady Blue Devils.

Salem subsequently made it all the way to the D-I championship game, but it fell to the 2014 title-winning Dover High Green Wave group, which was coached by Londonderry High 1983 graduate Tim Dudley.

MacDougall has nine players returning from his talented 2015 contingent. And one who will draw a considerable amount of the spotlight will be junior pitcher/third baseman Andi Nelson.

"The key, as it usually is, will be the level of pitching we receive," said

MacDougall. "Andi will be our number one, but there is no proven backup at this point. We should be able to score runs and play great defense."

The other returnees include lone senior Anna Maggio (outfield), juniors Ali Nelson (first base), Katrina Rivard (left field), Rachel Simkevich (catcher), Lizzie Niven (catcher), Val Shays (second base), and Elizabeth Devoss (infield), and lone sophomore Lauren Misiasek (right field).

The team's newcomers include sophomores Sarah Fawcett (infield), Emily Nelson (catcher/infield), and Cassidy Raza

(versatile).

MacDougall's charges get their 2016 season rolling officially in Rochester against the host Spaulding High Lady Red Raiders on Wednesday afternoon, April 13. And when asked which teams he expects to battle for top spots in D-I this spring, MacDougall responded, "The usual cast of characters will challenge at the top. Salem, Timberlane, Spaulding, Concord, and possibly Bishop Guertin. We would like to improve on our sixth-place finish last season, but we'll have to get consistent pitching to do that."

LBC Eighth Grade Hoopsters Squeak Out Title Win

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Heading into the recent Division I playoffs, the Londonderry Basketball Club's (LBC) eighth grade boys' contingent knew what it was capable of, but it also knew that it had been somewhat inconsistent and unpredictable from game to game during the 2015-16 regular season.

But on the big post-season stage, with a championship being the prize dangling in front of their noses, the local

hoopsters put it all together in impressive fashion in claiming the crown.

The LBC cagers won four consecutive playoff contests - including a two-point decision over the crew from Hampstead in the championship game - to tear their way to the season-capping success.

The Londonderry bunch bagged a hard-fought, 60-58 victory over Hampstead in a title game that featured 67 total foul shots.

"The challenges we

faced during the season toughened us and prepared us for some epic efforts and our shining moment," said proud coach John Daley, who guided the title-winners along with co-coaches Arthur Wilkinson and Arthur Tsetsilas.

The players on the squad included Luke Marsh, Shane Reddy, Alex Cafaro, Jackson Cox, Artie Wilkinson, Cole Keegan, Cooper Bartlett, Tyler Kayo, Alex Tsetsilas, Kerry Daley, and Dylan Hotter.



The Londonderry Basketball Club's eighth grade title-winning team included, in front from left, Luke Marsh, Shane Reddy, Alex Cafaro, and Jackson Cox. In the back row from left are coach Arthur Wilkinson, Artie Wilkinson, Cole Keegan, Cooper Bartlett, Tyler Kayo, Alex Tsetsilas, Kerry Daley, Dylan Hotter, coach Arthur Tsetsilas, and coach John Daley. Courtesy photo

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Local Mom Joins Miles for Miracles to Race Boston Marathon

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

After a roller coaster year, an inspiring local mom will run the Boston Marathon to raise money for Boston Children's Hospital in honor of her 1-year-old daughter.

When Shelby McCarthy went for a routine 28-week ultrasound while pregnant with her daughter Kennedy, she and her husband, Patrick, were completely unprepared for the news that their baby's brain was not developing properly.

"The last thing we heard at 18 weeks was everything was great," she said. "That day was debilitating sadness. But I looked at my husband and I said, 'well, we have two choices. We can sit here and wonder, 'why us?' And that won't help anyone. Or we can move ahead and be rock star parents and give her the life she deserves.'"

It's that inner strength and the love she has for Kennedy that has powered McCarthy through a challenging training schedule and late season injury to complete the Boston Marathon on April 18 with the Miles for Miracles fundraising team.

Kennedy was born on March 10, 2015 and did "incredibly well in the

hospital," despite the challenges she faced, according to McCarthy.

She was diagnosed with bilateral perisylvian polymicrogyria, an extremely rare neurological disorder characterized by partial paralysis of facial muscles, difficulties in speaking, chewing and swallowing and/or sudden episodes of seizures; and she had bilateral hearing loss.

"At 3 months Kennedy had her first seizure," McCarthy said. "At 5 months she was diagnosed with the most dangerous type of seizure, infantile spasms."

By the time Kennedy was 5 months old, she had been admitted to Boston Children's Hospital for three nearly week-long stays.

Now, at the age of 1, Kennedy has complex epilepsy, where her condition is resistant to medication. Last month she was admitted to Boston Children's Hospital while suffering about 100 seizures per day.

McCarthy said the staff at Boston Children's Hospital provided tremendous comfort to her family through those difficult times.

"Kennedy was in the hospital for her first birthday. The nurses and staff threw her a birthday



Shelby McCarthy, with husband, Patrick, and daughter, Kennedy, will run the Boston Marathon this month with Miles for Miracles to raise money for the Boston Children's Hospital. Courtesy photo

party with cake, balloons and presents. Little things like that not only help the kids out, but help brighten parents' days too," she said. "To say everyone down there is incredible is an understatement. The nurses, doctors, social workers - everyone down there is fantastic when you're in these dire situations."

The hospital also offers programs for children with extended admissions, like a Christmas event where a room is filled with gift donations at which parents whose children won't be home for the holidays can "shop" for presents.

"They bring in therapy animals and there are five clowns on staff who go to the kids' rooms and do

magic. These are things Miles for Miracles helps to fund. I wanted to give back to these people who are so good to us," McCarthy said.

In addition to donating headbands to children staying at the hospital, McCarthy decided to join Miles for Miracles, a program through which runners raise money for Boston Children's Hospital by running major events, like the Boston Marathon.

McCarthy, who has been training with her team since November, has

raised \$6,500 for the cause. So far, her team has raised about \$1.4 million, just shy of their \$1.7 million goal.

McCarthy, who has worked up to 17 miles, having only run 10 miles before she started training, plans to continue to nurse the muscle strain in her ankle and will finish the race whether she has to "hobble or crawl or walk."

"I'm running for my daughter," she said. "For me, the biggest thing is when you have a child who you're told may never learn to walk, running 26.2 miles seems like nothing."

In addition to the opportunity to give back to an organization that has provided her family with much-needed care and support, McCarthy said Miles for Miracles has connected her with other families whose children have received care at Boston Children's Hospital.

"You see the families that are impacted and it's cool to be doing something for people above ourselves," she said, not-

ing her teammate Ryan Fragala also lives in Londonderry.

McCarthy's whole family will be in Boston to cheer her on, including Kennedy, who has served as her inspiration throughout the journey to her first marathon finish.

"There are a lot of unknowns for our future, but there are a few things we are sure of: (Kennedy) is an absolute blessing to our lives, Boston Children's Hospital provides impeccable care for her and our family and we will run to the end of the earth to ensure she always has the care she needs," she wrote on her fundraising page.

To make a donation to Boston Children's Hospital through McCarthy's fundraising page online, visit http://fundraise.childrenshospital.org/site/TR/BostonMarathon/BostonMarathon?px=1353176&pg=personal&fr_id=1390. Or, visit <http://giving.childrenshospital.org/miles-for-miracles.html> for more information about Miles for Miracles and to make a donation to Boston Children's Hospital.

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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 \$30.00/week per paper. All Around Town/Calendar Items will be held to 100 words maximum; anything over will incur a charge of \$30.00/week for up to another 50 words. All free announcements in the Around Town/Calendar section can run a maximum of 3 weeks. Deadline for submissions is Monday at 5 p.m.

Additionally: We will run the full versions of any calendar items online free of charge at www.nutpub.net. Please send items to calendar@nutpub.net.

Interfaith Choir

The Interfaith Choir, which includes members from Derry, Londonderry, Hampstead, Chester and Sandown, presents "American Classics" on Saturday, April 16 at 7 p.m. at Church of the Transfiguration, 1 Hood Road, Derry and Sunday, April 17 at 6 p.m. at Pleasant Street United Methodist Church, 8 Pleasant St, Salem, NH. The concerts are free; a free-will offering will be accepted. Refreshments follow each concert. For more information, email ifcderry@gmail.com.

Legion Meeting

American Legion Post 27 holds its monthly general meeting April 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Post, 6 Sargent Road. All Post 27 Legionnaires are invited. The newly elected Executive Board officers will be installed.

Legion Bingo

American Legion Post 27 plays bingo with patients at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Manchester from 7 to 8:30 p.m. April 25. The Post will serve pizza and diet soda as well as providing \$150 in prize money. Anyone interested in helping out can sign up at the Post.

Lions' Cookbooks

The Londonderry Lions Club cookbook is for sale at \$10 each. The proceeds go to Lions Club charities. Call Pat at 486-1701 to purchase a cookbook.

Fishing in New Hampshire

On Thursday, April 21 at 7 p.m., the Leach Library will host "Four Centuries of Fishing in New Hampshire: Yankee Character, Yankee Priorities" by Jack Noon. He is an historian and author and will discuss the history of fishing in New Hampshire. The free program for

adults is sponsored by the Friends of the Londonderry Leach Library and will be held in the library's lower-level meeting room. Light refreshments will be served.

Trailways Meet & Greet

"Talkin' Trails," a Londonderry Trailways Meet & Greet, takes place Saturday, April 9 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Benson's Lumber & Hardware, 20 Orchard View Drive. Stop by for a chat, learn about the trails, and see how to get involved. Londonderry Trailways is a volunteer, not-for-profit organization that develops, maintains, and promotes community trails in Londonderry to encourage healthy outdoor recreational activity and social interaction.

Rail Trail Work Day

Londonderry Trailways hosts a Rail Trail work day on Saturday, April 23 from 8 to 11 a.m. The clean-up will be of Phase 5 of the Rail Trail, a section not yet open to the public and running through the Cohas Marsh. Volunteers are asked to meet at the trail next to Wallboard Supply Company at 527 Mammoth Road in north Londonderry. Hip waders will be useful but there will also be dry land clean-up.

Tucker Open House

An open house for Pam Tucker, who is running as a Republican for Congress in the First Congressional District, takes place Saturday, April 16 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at The Meeting House, 80 Route 125, Kingston. She currently represents Greenland in the New Hampshire House. The Meeting House is on the same property as New Creation Healing Center, just north of Route 125's intersection with Hunt Road and Newton Junction Road.

Road Construction

Now through May, the Town is working on two

projects: reconstruction of a section of Commerce Avenue from Ray Wiczorek Drive to the cul-de-sac, and Litchfield Road near the cemetery. The Litchfield work will be followed by the paving of the finish coat on Litchfield Road from High Range Road to Yellowstone Road and Maureen Drive. Expect delays; seek alternate routes. For questions, call Londonderry Department of Public Works at 432-1100, ext. 193.

Toy Swap and Sale

Londonderry Women's Club's 14th annual Toy Swap and Sale takes place from 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 14 at the Matthew Thornton Elementary School gym, 275 Mammoth Road. Registration is 7:30 to 9 a.m. Registration forms are at the Leach Library. This is a consignment sale, with the price set by the owner, who receives two-thirds of the sale price. The other third goes to Community Alliance for Teen Safety (CATS) in Derry. Gently used toys, bikes, sporting goods and baby equipment are featured; stuffed animals, cribs, car seats, VHS tapes and clothing cannot be accepted.

Chili Cook-off

St. Peter's Episcopal Church's annual Chili Cook-off is 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 9 at the church, 3 Peabody Row. Net proceeds support St. Peter's and Manchester's Liberty House, a substance-free housing community for formerly homeless veterans. At \$10 for adults and \$5 for age 10 and under, attendees may sample chili and vote on their favorite for People's Choice and Kids' Choice awards. Celebrity judges will name Best Overall Chili. Country-western entertainment and piñatas are featured. Cook registration is at 4:15 p.m., dining from 4:30 to 6 p.m., followed by awards. To reg-

ister, contact Lee O'Connor at loconnor621@gmail.com or 781-801-8161.

Drop Off Center

The Londonderry Drop Off Center open now through Nov. 19, Saturdays only, weather permitting, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Payment is by check only; no cash is accepted. For more information, visit: LondonderryNH.org or call 432-1100, ext. 193.

Young Adult Movie

The Leach Library presents a free Movie Time program with the film "Pan" on Thursday, April 14 from 3:30 to 5:45 p.m. Students in grades 6 through 12 are invited to the movie, which includes popcorn and beverages, and a raffle for door prizes. No sign-up is necessary.

Library Craft Week

Starting Monday, April 11 through closing on Saturday, April 16 during National Library Week, Leach Library children's patrons are invited to create a stained glass-inspired bookmark. Stop by the Children's Room desk to pick up the supplies and create the bookmark in the library or at home.

Silly Stories

The Leach Library presents "Silly Stories" for children on Monday, April 18 from 4 to 5 p.m. Stories include "Count the Monkeys," "Because I stubbed my toe" and "Down by the Bay," and the participants will play a mixed up matching game. Participants are also welcome to wear their silliest outfits and bring their favorite joke or riddle to share. Everyone who attends will receive a silly accessory. Advance registration is required and begins at 9 a.m. Monday, April 11. To register, call 432-1127 or stop by the Children's Room.

Farm Day

As a kick-off to National Library Week, children are invited to the Leach Library on Monday, April 11 from 4 to 5 p.m. to meet some of the animals that inspired the classic novel "Charlotte's Web." Participants will learn all about life on the farm and how animals help to run it. Live animal visitors may include a micro pig, pygmy goat and skunk. Advance registration is required. To register, call

432-1127 or come by the Children's Room. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Londonderry Leach Library.

Pathfinder Dance

The Southern New Hampshire Indian Pathfinders, based in Londonderry, is a father/daughter group open to all dads and daughters in southern New Hampshire. A father-daughter dance takes place at Mastracola Upper Elementary School, 26 Baboosic St. Merrimack on Saturday, April 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$24 per family (father/daughters) or \$30 (cash only) at the door. Admission includes snacks, beverages and door prizes, as well as free photos. Dress is semi-formal. For details, including a corsage package, visit: <http://indian-pathfinders.com/pathnew/events>.

Crafters Wanted

Londonderry Senior Citizens, Inc. (LSCI) will hold a Summer Arts and Crafts Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 25 at the Londonderry Senior Center, 535 Mammoth Road. Space is available to local artisans. Funds raised from the fair will be used to purchase equipment and materials for the Senior Center. Eight-foot spaces inside or 10X10 outdoor spaces are available at \$35 plus a craft or gift item to be raffled by LSCI. Crafters must provide a table and chairs. Applications and fees are due by May 6. For more information, call Bonnie Ritvo at 432-8554 or email Serior-Center@LondonderryNH.org.

Coed Softball

Londonderry Coed Softball is looking for new players to join an existing team or start their own team. Play takes place Thursday evenings and a few Sunday afternoons. All skill levels are welcome. Contact Michael Costello at Ltowncoed@gmail.com for questions or to join.

Girl Scout Cookies

Girl Scout Cookie Booths are now open across New Hampshire and Vermont. Cookie booths can be found at shopping centers now through early April. To find a cookie booth, visit girlscoutsgwm.org and click on the Cookie Locator. Seven Girl Scout cookies, including the iconic Thin Mints and top-selling

Samoas, and Tagalongs, are available at \$4 per box. Gluten-free Toffee-tastic Girl Scout cookies retail for \$5. All proceeds support local Girl Scout programs and serve as a major funding source for troop activities, including field trips, camping, and community service projects.

Fuel Assistance

Fuel assistance is available from Southern New Hampshire Services, which is taking applications through April 30 to help renters and homeowners in Rockingham County pay past or future energy bills. Fuel assistance pays for oil, propane, wood, pellets, kerosene, natural gas or electric heat costs, with payments going toward a past due balance or credit for future use. To qualify, one person can earn up to \$1,935/month, with a family of four earning up to \$3,986/month. Fuel assistance may also be applied to rent if heat is included in rent. To make an appointment, call the Derry office at 965-3029.

Israeli Dance Nights

Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry hosts Israeli Dance Nights on April 29 and June 3. Friday night services begin at 7:15 p.m., with Kiddush, music and dancing following the services.

HU Chant

A Community HU Chant takes place at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, April 10 and again at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 21 at the Holiday Inn, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester.

Eckankar Worship

An Eckankar worship service takes place Sunday, April 10 at 10:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester. This month's topic is "Opening Your Heart to More of God's Love."

Model Railroading

Seacoast Division of the National Model Railroad Association presents Derry Fun Night on the second Friday night of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 West Broadway, Derry. This month's program, "Using Gatorfoam" by John Tyndall, is April 8. Always a part of Fun Night is a model showcase, where modelers bring in the latest

Continued on page 18

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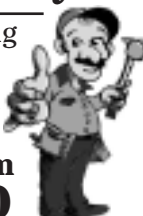
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Around Town

Continued from page 16

project they are working on to show and discuss. Anyone interested in model trains is invited to attend. For more information, see coastnmra.org/calendar.

Free Meals

The free Community Meals Program offers the following meals, with no residency requirement: Sunday, April 10, 5 to 6:30 p.m., Church of the Transfiguration, 1 Hood Road, Derry; Saturday, April 16, 5 to 6:30 p.m., St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 63 East Broadway, Derry; Sunday,

April 17, 5 to 6:15 p.m., Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-1/2 Hood Road, Derry; Thursday, April 21, 5 to 6:30 p.m., West Running Brook Middle School, 1 West Running Brook Lane, Derry; and Mondays through Fridays, 4:30 p.m., Sonshine Soup Kitchen, First Baptist Church, 2 Crystal Ave., Derry.

Water

Continued from page 1

Private wells in Merrimack and Litchfield show PFOA levels at or above 100 ppt (the concentration at which DES provides bottled water), ranging from 100 ppt to 830 ppt.

The results for the nearest wells to the Londonderry town line are below 100 ppt.

A well that tested at 90 ppt is offline. The DES sampled five additional MVD wells March 3 and plans to re-sample the MVD wells on a weekly basis during the investigation.

The DES investigation into the potential presence of PFC's in drinking water in Merrimack and neighboring communities

began several weeks ago when Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics notified the DES that PFOA was detected at 30 ppt in samples taken from four water faucets within their Merrimack facility, which the MVD Water System services.

There are some results that are above background concentrations, but most are at background concentrations, which are less than 10 ppt, according to the DES.

More recent test results for tests conducted at Corning Road, Woodland Road and Courtland in Litchfield will be important to determining whether the zone of testing should expand to Londonderry, according to the Town.

Londonderry officials said they are also monitoring the situation in anticipation of the federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) issuance of a report on PFOA this spring.

"If the EPA changes its opinion about the actionable level of PFOA, we will respond accordingly," the Town said.

For more information regarding the DES's ongoing investigation, sampling results or conducting private well testing, visit the DES online at <http://des.nh.gov/>.

The Town Council and Town Manager will continue to update the public as they receive more information related to the DES's ongoing investigation.

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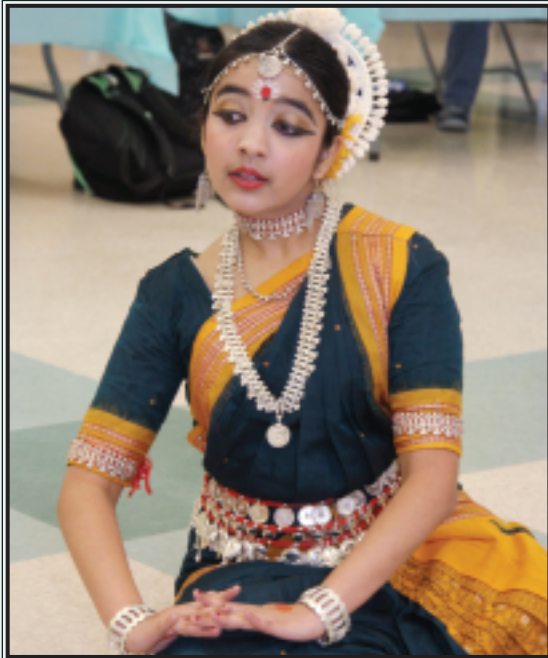
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Cultures Combine Londonderry High School held its annual International Night on Friday with dozens of countries represented. There were dance and music performances throughout the evening as well as a variety of foods to taste. *Photos by Chris Paul*

Londonderry Police Log

Selections from the Londonderry Police Logs

Tuesday, March 29

8 a.m. Tree down across Adams Road.

12:51 p.m. Theft of laptop from vehicle on Danbury Court.

2:19 p.m. Student transportation reports bus pulled over with disruptive/destructive student on board at Matthew Drive and Auburn Road.

7:56 p.m. Matthew Thomas Hujsak, 54, Market Street, Manchester arrested for Receiving Stolen Property, two counts of Misuse or Failure to Display Plates, and bench warrant. Released to Manchester Police on their warrant. Due in Derry Circuit Court March 30 on Londonderry charges.

Wednesday, March 30

3:23 a.m. Londonderry Fire responding for smoke in building on Londonderry Road.

2:44 p.m. Car keyed at Harvey Industries, Jack's

Bridge Road.

4:41 p.m. Jeremy Scott Greene, 37, Beaverbrook Road, Raleigh, N.C., arrested for Driving While Intoxicated (second offense) after driving into Café Teresa, Nashua Road. Building inspectors called to scene to assess damage. Bail set at \$1,500 personal recognizance, with Derry Circuit Court date of April 5.

Thursday, March 31

9:18 a.m. Loose horse on Beacon Street.

1:03 p.m. Pile of needles on side of Hall Road, west of Lori.

9 p.m. Caller on Old Derry Road reports burglary, two guitars missing and damage to back door of residence.,

10:05 p.m. Caller on Allison Lane reports burglary that occurred earlier; jewelry box, jar of change, and PS4 missing.

Friday, April 1

2:42 a.m. Bark mulch on fire at Bank of America, Mammoth Road.

7:28 a.m. Elena Agrella, 18, 46 Elwood Road, Londonderry arrested for three counts of Simple Assault. Bail set at \$1,000 personal recognizance, with Derry District Court date of May 10.

9:13 a.m. Yvette D. Atkinson, 50, 183 Taft Road, Wilmington, Mass., turned herself in on Londonderry warrant for Criminal Mischief (vandalism). Bail set at \$1,000 personal

recognizance, with Derry District Court date of May 10.

11:55 a.m. Rear window of motor vehicle broken on Winding Pond Road.

2:03 p.m. Marci L. Rosenblatt, 45, 23 Blodget St., Apt. 1, Manchester turned herself in on Londonderry warrant for Criminal Mischief (vandalism). Bail set at \$1,000 personal recognizance, with Derry District Court date of May 10.

2:56 p.m. Caller requesting extra patrols of LAFA fields, Nelson Road due to groups of kids gathering in parking lot.

Saturday, April 2

10:08 a.m. Mailbox damaged on Wilshire Drive,

and someone else's mailbox was in caller's yard.

11:39 a.m. Mailbox damaged overnight on Sherwood Road.

9:54 p.m. Tina Sousa, 29, 77 Nelson Ave., Lowell, Mass., arrested after her car drove into tree on Perkins Road. She was arrested for Possession of Drugs (in a motor vehicle), possession of controlled/narcotic drugs and Open Container of Alcohol. Bail set at \$1,500 personal recognizance, with Derry District Court

date of May 17.

10:27 p.m. Caller on Bunker Hill Drive reporting three or four high school-age kids throwing toilet paper at house.

Sunday, April 3

1:42 p.m. Brian M. Hanlon, 27, Wilshire Drive, Londonderry arrested for Criminal Trespass. Personal recognizance bail set, with May 10 Derry Circuit Court date.

2:50 p.m. Tree down blocking one lane of traffic south of Royal on High Range Road.

Town of Londonderry, NH RECREATION DEPARTMENT Maintenance Worker/Laborer

The Town of Londonderry is accepting applications for a Maintenance Worker/Laborer for the Recreation Department to perform routine duties relative to weekly trash pickup at outdoor facilities. This is a seasonal part time position with an average of 6 hours per week, generally from April to June. Pay rate is \$8.00/hr, no benefits included. Application forms are available at Londonderry Town Hall, Human Resources, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH; or download from the Town's website at www.londonderrynh.org.

Closing date for application submittal: 4/15/16 EOE

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