

# Londonderry Times

December 15, 2016 ♦ Volume 17 – Issue 49

A FREE Weekly Publication



## Time Trials

South Elementary School fifth grader Spencer Nelson gets into the competition during last weeks visit from Techsploration with a Transportation Workshop. Students paired up and built vessels to race on a magnetic track. See more photos page 9.

Photo by Chris Paul

## The Spirit of the Season: Jokes Fly at Lions' Christmas Tree Lot

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Doug Hansel, Veronique Froment and their twin sons, Kaelen and Lowan, had a serious decision to make. They circled a large balsam fir tree in the Londonderry Lions Club tree

lot. "This one's nice," Lowen, 11, said. "It looks good."

"It's thinner on the top, just like me," Hansel cracked.

The jokes flew and the spirits were high, despite the cold, this past Thursday as a half dozen Lions took their turn at the tree

stand outside their hall. Hansel, Froment and the boys joined the fun, in their annual tradition of picking out a live tree from the Lions, a seasonal fixture on Mammoth Road.

As different Lions took turns guiding families through the selection

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## Stonehenge Apartment Complex Gets A Red Light

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry Planning Board has agreed to step back and take another look, after board members, staff members and the public expressed concern about an apartment complex planned for Stonehenge Road near Hardy.

The board met with Mark Fugere, developer and Jeff Merritt, engineer for the proposed Residences at MacGregor Cut, in the Dec. 7 Planning Board meeting. The project is being developed for First Londonderry Association LLC and is planned for 65 acres off Stonehenge Road.

The property is Tax

Map 12, lots 120 and 131, and is zoned Agricultural-Residential. The complex would include 12 24-unit buildings, for a total of 288 units, along with a clubhouse, pool and shelter for school children waiting for the bus.

The complex will be 50 percent workforce housing, with the other 50 percent at regular market rate, Fugere said. He emphasized that this is not subsidized housing. There will be no Federal money, but it will all be privately funded, he said.

The developers have had two meetings with the Heritage Commission and tweaked the proposal before receiving Her-

itage's blessing, he said, but did not mention conservation.

Merritt said The Residences would incorporate two lots, Map 12 Lot 120, 43 acres with frontage on Stonehenge and Map 12 Lot 131, 17.3 acres with frontage on Hardy. The Stonehenge land is wooded and the Hardy Road piece "undeveloped," he said.

The plan is for two entrances, one main entrance on Stonehenge and one emergency road to the west that will be gated, he said.

Merritt said the plan calls for 508 parking spaces, including handicapped spaces for each

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## Creative Financing Sought for Communication Upgrade

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry Town Council and Town Manager Kevin Smith will look for creative ways to come up with the money for a Communications Upgrade for the town, while acknowledging that Londonderry can't wait much longer.

In a Dec. 12 public hearing on the budget, Councilors agreed on the need for more communications infrastructure on towers and better portable and vehicle units for Police, Fire and Public Works. They directed Smith to look at reducing the share of the Unas-

signed Fund Balance proposed for other warrant articles, in order to minimize the tax impact of the upgrade.

The upgrade is estimated at \$4,200,000, according to research done by a team from the Fire Department headed by Battalion Chief Michael McQuillen. If it were bonded, the first year payment would be \$107,500, with a 0.028 cent impact on the tax rate.

### Leasing vs. bonding

Smith and Finance Director Doug Smith said they had looked at the possibility of leasing vs. bonding.

Doug Smith said he

had discussed leasing with First Niagara, the company giving the Fire Department the estimate, and that the company told him there is a five-year cap on the lease term, with an annual payment of \$925,000.

Councilor Joe Green asked Smith to explain the five-year limit, and Smith said it is due to the

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# Matthew Thornton Students Help Adopt-a-Family



Matthew Thornton Elementary School students and family members chipped in and collected holiday presents for eleven of the nearly 90 local families in need this year for the annual Adopt-a-Family program at the school. Around 30 student volunteers gathered after the annual holiday breakfast to gather, load vehicles and deliver the gifts to St. Mark's parish in Londonderry.

*Photos by Chris Paul*

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# Stonehenge

Continued from page 1

building; sidewalks; crosswalks; bike racks; and a 10x15 foot bus shelter.

Thirty acres will go into conservation, with 80 percent of the project open space, he said.

There is currently no town water, sewer or gas main at the property, he said. The developers plan to access a stub of water main near the entrance and Pennichuk Water will build a booster station, he said. The developers will obtain an easement across the Ever-source property. Pennichuk will build and maintain the tower, according to Merritt.

The developers plan to connect with municipal sewer on Mammoth Road and "pull it up" to the site, and also with a gas main on Mammoth Road.

There will be a closed drainage system, according to Merritt, and the developers plan to upgrade Stonehenge Road from Pinto Lane to their project.

Merritt said three phases are planned for the development. The initial phase will have buildings 1 through 4, with 96 units, the pool and clubhouse, the bus stop, booster station and 181 parking spaces. The second phase will have another 96 units, and the third phase will put in the remaining 96.

Chairman Art Rugg asked for a timetable, and

Fugere said they are limited by town rules to 96 structures a year. If the economy is good, it could be completed in three years, he said, depending on the market conditions.

Traffic Engineer Steve Pernow gave a traffic projection, saying that he focused on the afternoon peak time and that this project would add an estimated 179 cars on the road in the afternoon peak time of 4:45 to 5:45.

Pernow agreed that Stonehenge's intersection with Route 28 is dangerous, especially at peak times and when people try to turn left.

Pernow said he was asked by the Department of Transportation to look at three options for Stonehenge and 28: a fully-signalized intersection, a roundabout, or widening the approach to 28.

## Traffic

Jim Butler, the Town Council's representative to the Planning Board, said, "Something has to be done about that intersection. This developer has an obligation to make offsite improvements."

"Traffic is like water," member Leitha Reilly agreed. "It always finds a way."

While Pernow said the development would only add 54 cars to the Stonehenge/28 juncture at peak time, it was 54 too many for many of the listeners. Capt. Gerry Dussault of

the Londonderry Police Dept. said, "I'm not an engineer, but that intersection is an absolute failure. It's ill-configured, and too many people are headed toward Derry. You can't turn left."

The Stonehenge/Mammoth Road intersection is better than it was 10 years ago, but that is due to signalization, Dussault said.

The number of accidents on Stonehenge has increased, according to Dussault, and many of them are at the intersection with Hardy.

David Dubay, an engineer with Stantec who has also worked on the project, said, "There is queuing at Stonehenge and Mammoth Road, but you know you will get out."

In the public comment portion of the meeting, community member Martin Srugis said, "I go through their five days a week. If I miss my start time by 20 minutes, it's difficult to turn left on 28. People have a tendency to inch out, and take a chance." The road banks along that stretch and traffic is "very fast," Srugis said.

"Stonehenge and Perkins are country lanes," he said. "They were not

made for this."

Srugis stated "I was never in favor of this project, it is in the wrong place" he said.

## Other issues

Board member Many Wing Soares asked if there would be a playground for the complex's children. Merritt said he would discuss it with the applicants, but added, "They may not want the liability."

Member Ted Combes asked about snow storage, and Merritt said several areas were designated. These include at the front of the clubhouse, at the rear of the pool, to the west of Unit 8, and between the parking lot and buildings 9 and 7.

Debra Paul, owner of Nutfield Publishing, thank them for giving us conservation land and pointed out that what they are giving us for conservation land is "wet and one of our water sheds" as well as ledge unbuildable, and when asked how much of it was good, Merritt said he didn't know, but would find out.

"How much is usable?" Paul asked.

Why only one dumpster, people who live to the front have to there

trash in there car and drive to the back I do not see that happening.

Paul asks how many fire hydrants do you have on site, they did not know.

Paul pressed Merritt on whether the applicant would be paying for the extension of sewer, water and gas, and Merritt said, "It will be covered by the applicant."

Paul also expressed concern about light pollution and whether the lights would be on all night as well as noise.

"The town has strict ordinance and we are complying with them," Merritt responded. Paul observed "There will still be a 'glow' to it all night every night."

"You are really dropping a commercial building in a residential area, and a few trees as a buffer will not help," Paul told Merritt and Fugere.

Paul brought up the impact on taxes: fire, EMTS, police, DPW, schools and town hall.

She asked if they would have recycling and they said no they will not have it available.

She also reminded the board that when someone else in town, came to them and wanted to subdivide there property to build a family home on it. It is on one of the worst road in town. They were

willing to improve the road but not quite up to town stands. The board said no only if you do the whole road and make up to town stands.

I see people coming in front of the board and planning department and being treated differently she "they should treat people the same even if the threaten to sue, after all it is about the greater good for our town."

Chris Paul asked what off-site improvements they would be doing? Mary Many Wing Soares stated they were repaving from their driveway to Mammoth.

Chris then said that is not improvement that is repairing what they dug up.

Board member Leitha Reilly expressed concern about the aesthetics for people who already live in the area. "People in the cul-de-sacs do not want to look up and see a four-story building," she said.

Jim Butler agreed. "If you lived at the end of Faye Lane, would you want to look at that?" he asked the developers.

Member Scott Benson returned to the topic of the failed intersection and said, "It's hard to believe this will be a good thing until the intersection is fixed."

The board made no decision, but agreed to postpone discussion on the complex.

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# Editorial

## Apartment Complex Project Too Risky

With soaring rents and diminishing options, affordable workplace housing is needed in the area and throughout the state.

In these difficult economic times, and with a limited housing supply, workers need affordable residences they can call home.

But just because there is a pressing need for more affordable workforce housing doesn't justify building an apartment complex that doesn't fit into a neighborhood and would even pose a risk to the community.

Such is the case in Londonderry, where developers want to build a massive 288-unit apartment complex at the junction of two traditionally country roads. If it is constructed, the complex would bring more traffic to the already congested area and increase the danger for the driving public, according to officials.

It would also bring light pollution and affect the aesthetics of the neighborhood.

The complex would include 12 24-unit buildings, for a total of 288 units. It would also include some 500 parking spaces, according to officials.

During a recent Planning Board meeting, it was learned that the complex will be 50 percent workforce housing, with the other 50 percent at regular market rate.

According to officials, Stonehenge's intersection with Route 28 is

dangerous, especially at peak times.

Capt. Gerry Dussault of the Londonderry Police Dept. called the intersection "an absolute failure. He said, "It's ill-configured, and too many people are headed toward Derry."

The number of accidents on Stonehenge has increased, according to Dussault, and many of them are at the intersection with Hardy.

Other officials expressed concern about the aesthetics for people who already live in the area.

The Planning Board made no decision in the meeting, but agreed to postpone discussion on the complex.

Londonderry isn't alone as towns throughout the area are losing their rural charm because of increased traffic clogging the scenic byways. As more and more vehicles flood the area, the deterioration of local roads is accelerating at an alarming rate.

Adding a new development that will only hasten that deterioration while risking the safety of the driving public is dangerous and wrong.

We urge the Planning Board members to approach this ill-conceived plan with extreme caution. They should continue to question this proposal and demand that it be revamped so the danger level is dramatically reduced. Otherwise, the entire plan should be scrapped.

## Communications

**Continued from page 1**  
"appropriation escape clause." He explained that if something goes wrong, the leasing company has the right to take back the equipment, but that "They can't repossess the communications towers."

Smith said the lease term would be the same even if the town took out the towers and just leased the personal and vehicle equipment. The tax impact would drop from 25 cents to 22 cents, but it would still be a five-year lease, he said.

On a 10-year bond, the tax impact would start at 14 cents and decline gradually to 11 cents; on a 15-year bond, 11 cents to 8 cents; and on a 20-year bond, 9 cents to 6 cents, he said.

"On a straight bond, the per-year costs are better," he said.

The Council, McQuillen and Fire Chief Darren O'Brien discussed "breaking out" part of the amount from the bond, to be paid for by leasing or taxation. The towers are \$1 million by themselves, McQuillen said, and would be hard to fund otherwise. "But we can break out some of the equipment," he said.

The equipment could also be phased in, O'Brien said.

### Ticking clock

But the clock is ticking for the equipment, O'Brien and McQuillen added. By 2020 the Federal Communications Commission wants bandwidth upgrades on all communications equipment. "If we don't upgrade, our equipment won't be supported," McQuillen told the Council.

Councilor Jim Butler asked about the FCC requirements. "So we need a change in the bandwidth?" he asked.

McQuillen said the FCC is going to a narrow-band system, which will allow more frequency for emergency responders. "The deadline is 2020," he said.

"So one way or the other, we have to do this to comply," Butler said.

He knows of no current Federal or state grants for this kind of upgrade, O'Brien said to a question from Butler, but added he would look into it.

### Dead zones

One of the reasons for the proposed upgrade is to get rid of so-called "dead zones" throughout the community, where dispatch equipment doesn't work. While Public Works "has the most antiquated equipment," Kevin Smith said, it's even more important to eliminate the dead zones so police and fire can reach each other and their constituents. "Maybe we could get the dead zones taken care of for police and fire, and phase in Public Works," he suggested.

Resident Debra Paul was the only speaker in a public hearing. She asked McQuillen if any other New Hampshire cities and towns were using this system and McQuillen pointed to Derry, the Souhegan Community System from Bedford to Nashua, Concord, and the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid based in Laconia.

The goal, he said, is that there be no "dead zones" throughout the state.

Paul asked if they could "piggyback" on other systems and phase in the project. McQuillen said they could, but that would not get rid of the dead zones.

Paul also asked for the percentage of the town with dead zones, and O'Brien said Lt. Jeremy Mague had a map and he would get back to her.

### Minimizing the effect

Councilors shared a general opinion that a bond was dicey, whether at the original \$4.2 million or at \$1 million for the infrastructure. "We have to get 60 percent if it's a bond," Councilor Tom Freda, who chaired the meeting in the absence of John Farrell, reminded his colleagues.

"It is highly likely a bond will not pass," Kevin Smith warned, while

Councilor Tom Dolan said it would not pass without an extensive education campaign.

But Doug Smith said, "We also need to think about what the cost is of not fixing this problem. What would be the cost of a major incident?"

"As part of the marketing, this argument should be woven in," Dolan said. "We've got to talk about the risk of doing nothing."

"There is no question in my mind," Councilor Joe Green said, "that we have to do it." How to do it is the question, he said.

One of Freda's suggestions was paying for the infrastructure out of the UFB, and funding the personal and vehicle equipment through leases.

### Sharing the impact

In his working budget, Kevin Smith had proposed funding or partially funding several needs by the UFB, including the Roadway Maintenance Trust Fund at \$650,000, sidewalks in the Moose Hill area, \$350,000, the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund, \$164,000, and the Sewer Expansion down 102, \$350,000. While the group had originally discussed using the \$650,000 slated for the Roadway Maintenance Fund for the communications upgrade and asking the taxpayers to appropriate money for the fund, Smith observed that it shouldn't just be Roadway Maintenance that would be put before the taxpayers, but that something should be taken from each of the capital accounts using the UFB. The items will remain on the warrant, but the taxpayers will be asked to fund all or part of them instead of subsidizing them with the UFB.

"If we self-fund the infrastructure, we could bond or lease the remaining amount," Smith said.

Freda said, "If we self-fund the infrastructure, we can avoid asking for the 60 percent voter approval."

Smith agreed to look at redistributing the UFB, while O'Brien and McQuillen agreed to look at grants and other options.

## Londonderry Times

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## Lions Trees

Continued from page 1

process, others drank coffee and swapped stories around a roaring oil drum fire. Jerry Gulezian, president of the group, said that the sale has been going on for a quarter of a century. For several years they've been ordering the trees from a farm in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, and they and their customers are happy with them.

"We brought in 400 and we have 45 left," Gulezian said. "They are very good trees." With two weeks left to go, he expected to sell out, he said.

The Lions open their tree lot on Thursday and Friday nights, with about a half dozen volunteers. More Lions show up for the weekend shifts, and will work varying shifts depending on the need, according to Gulezian. But there's almost always a need, with many local families making the Lions Hall their Christmas-tree stop. "Two-thirds of our customers," he said, "are repeats."

What are customers looking for? Something that will fit, Gulezian said. "Some want wide, some want tall, and they're mindful of their ceiling height," he said. "You need to know the area you want to put it in."

A good tree will have the needles still attached, he said, pinching a branch to demonstrate. "If you see a lot of needles on the ground around the tree, it's already old," he said.

But that's not the Lions' way, he added. "People tell us our trees last forever."

They're all Balsam firs, which are "famous" for longevity, he said.

The Lions work with Katie Sullivan's Pay It Forward group from the high school, Gulezian said. "We're all getting older, and it's hard to get on top of the truck. But the kids come, this year we had 35 on the Friday after Thanksgiving, and we were unloaded within a half hour."

The trees start at 6

feet, he said, and vary in size and thickness. Some are narrower, some wider. "This year we have one 15-footer," he said, pointing to a giant tree in the back. "Someone will buy that."

Customers like the Lions lot because the Lions customize the trees, he added. Purchasers don't have to wait till they get home to trim the top or bottom – an obliging Lion will wield a chainsaw before they leave the lot. "Most have the bottom cut off, because they want to put it in the stand right away," he said. But if they're not going to put it in water immediately, he advises making the cut later.

Around the oil drum, the other Lions traded insults. "Everyone works except him," one Lion joked about a colleague.

"He has two speeds, 'slow' and 'done,'" the object of his taunting shot back.

Hansel and Froment arrived with the two red-cheeked boys. They stamped their feet to keep warm. "We come here every year," Froment said. "They are so friendly."

"It's a nice quality tree, fairly priced, and there's a sense of community," Hansel added.

The boys are part of the expedition and their opinions are considered. "It's nice to see the tree before it's decorated," Kaelen said, while Lowan said, "I look for one that will fit perfectly in our living room."

Some customers spend an hour on the lot and leave unsatisfied, according to Gulezian, while others grab the first tree they find. The Hansel-Froments were somewhere in the middle. They looked closely at two trees, and lingered over the third. "It's nice and full," Froment mused.

"If we took a foot off the bottom it could fit in the stand," Hansel said, adding, "This could be it."

"We got lucky," Froment said as Hansel went into the hut to pay. "It usually takes us longer."

Emerging from the hut, Hansel added that he likes the Lions experience because they don't bun-

dle the trees with wire. "You see what you're getting," he said.

The boys are experts in helping with the choice. Kaelen said, "I look for sturdy branches that will hold all our ornaments."

"I like a rounded bottom that spreads out," Lowan said. He cast an appraising eye on the family's choice, noting, "And the top of this can definitely hold our star."

"We all like the smell," Froment contributed. "There is nothing like it."

Hansel brought the family SUV around and loaded his family while White and Lion Paul Bauer strapped the tree to the top. They drove off to a chorus of holiday greetings, and the Lions went back to their fire and banter. One man pointed to a brother Lion and quipped, "If you want something short and round, take him!"

The sale is open Thursday and Friday, 3 to 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.



Doug Hansel and his twin sons get a refresher course in tree care from Londonderry Lion Barry White during a tree-buying expedition this past Thursday.

to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The sale is open every week until all 400 trees are sold or Christmas Eve, whichever comes first. For more information e-mail Lion Tom Cooper at tomcoop-er6171@gmail.com.

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# Personnel Costs Driving School District Budget

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Salaries and benefits will make up 81 percent of the proposed FY 18 budget for the Londonderry School District.

Superintendent Nate Greenberg presented the salary and benefits line, plus a request for five new staff members, in the Dec. 8 workshop with the board and Budget Committee. Greenberg's request is to keep pace with an overall student population once again on the rise and a growing Special Education population.

In a PowerPoint presentation, Greenberg said that the working FY 18 budget is \$71,773,909. Salaries and benefits make up \$58,415,215, leaving \$13,358,750 for everything else.

In the interests of transparency, Greenberg reminded the board and Budget Committee that this figure does not include four contracts under negotiation. The Custodians' contract has been settled and will be on the warrant for \$63,474. Greenberg said if the contracts for certified teachers, Allied Health and support

staff are settled, they will also be on the warrant.

The major growth is in the elementary schools, according to Greenberg. Matthew Thornton School was projected to have 501 students this year, and as of Oct. 1, it has 542. North School was projected at 435, with an Oct. 1 number of 468, and South School was projected at 423, with an Oct. 1 enrollment of 445.

By Nov. 30 there were even more, Greenberg said, with 46 students over projection at Matthew Thornton, 38 over projection at North and 28 over projection at South. That's 112 students more than anticipated, he told the board.

To keep pace with enrollment, Greenberg is proposing four new elementary school teachers, one for each of the district's elementary schools and one in reserve until he sees where the next population spike is.

"Projected out to 2020, we will have 398 new students and 65 percent of them will be elementary," Greenberg said.

He is also proposing a Pupil Services Coordina-

tor to assist Pupil Services Director Kim Carpinone. The total new positions requested are five, but he is hoping to reduce two positions at the high school, which is not growing as fast, for a net new personnel of three.

Greenberg addressed Special Education, noting that the district has 742 identified students and that that is up 52 from last year. Twenty-one of those 52 require 10 or more hours a week of direct instruction. He is anticipating five more students for the self-contained classrooms, he said. The district has 83 students with autism as a first or second diagnosis, or 14 percent of the SPED population, he said. Thirteen students are visually impaired, 32 have hearing or communications disorders, and 291 require 504 accommodations.

There has also been a significant increase in ESOL students, with 28 students speaking nine languages, he said.

The Pupil Services Coordinator would be responsible for monitoring out-of-district place-

ments, Greenberg said. Currently, Carpinone spends a significant amount of time attending meetings on these and doing site visits. Though the district has implemented several in-district programs, there are still 30 students in some form of out-of-district placement, some because of particular needs, some court-ordered, and some in charter schools. Greenberg said the Director spends 20 percent of her time on out-of-district placements.

"I was on the road for three hours today," Carpinone contributed.

The coordinator would also be the on-site administrator for ESLY, the Extended School Year offered to some special ed students.

Having back-up is especially crucial in special education, Greenberg pointed out. "One mistake, procedural or otherwise, could result in an out-of-district placement that costs us more than hiring an administrator," he said.

The five new positions would add \$255,238 to the budget in the first year, after subtracting the costs of the two eliminat-

ed positions at the high school.

Board member Steve Young asked to see a more complete breakdown of the out-of-district placements, and Carpinone said she would bring it to the budget meeting where she discusses her own budget. Carpinone noted that the biggest change in out-of-district has been the rise of charter schools.

Chairman Nancy Hendricks asked Greenberg, "Based on the numbers we're seeing now, do you anticipate needing another teacher before the end of this fiscal year?"

Greenberg said no. "That would require reconfiguring the third grade, and the parents would be upset," he said. With the adding of positions at North and South in the current fiscal year, he said he has hopes that the increase in children would be absorbed.

It also depends on where they are, Greenberg added. If the new children were spread across all five elementary grades, they could be accommodated. But if they all land in one grade, there's a problem.

The board and Greenberg have expressed concern about housing developments and apartment complexes going up in the north end of town and their effect on North School. Hendricks asked Greenberg if North School was "approaching capacity."

There are 28 classrooms, Greenberg said, and 24 are occupied by regular classes. If the new position is approved, next year they will be using 25. This will require speech and OT to downsize and share a smaller room, he said. If the school growth requires 26 classrooms, the art room will be forfeited for "Art On a Cart," and if growth requires 27 classrooms, music will also go on a cart. But they can't use the 28th classroom, as it is devoted to reading intervention, he said.

"It depends on what grade levels the kids come in at," Greenberg said.

"How many more students can we absorb at North?" Hendricks asked, to which Greenberg said 60.

But, he said, "A new elementary school is on the horizon at some point."

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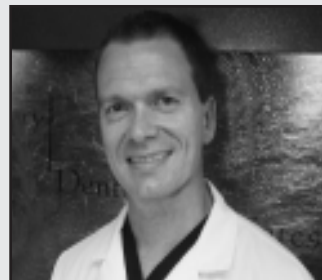


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# Senior Transportation Needs Discussed by Council

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry Town Council is continuing to entertain the idea of starting its own transportation system for the town's senior population, with an eye toward getting every Londonderry senior to where they need to go. But they have different ideas of how to get there.

The Council discussed the idea of senior transportation needs in its Dec. 12 public hearing on the 2018 budget. The options are keeping its agreement with the Cooperative Alliance for Regional Transportation (CART) at \$26,000 per year; establishing its own route with a donated or leased vehicle;

or doing both.

While CART is in the working budget prepared by Town Manager Kevin Smith, establishing their own system is not. Councilor Joe Green asked the rest of the board if they could have Smith put a warrant article on the warrant for March town meeting.

While Ford of Londonderry has agreed to donate a van, it is not handicapped-accessible and that could present issues for that segment of the population, Green said.

He suggested the town go "all in" and keep CART while building up its own route for seniors.

Council Chair John Farrell, who was absent

Monday night, has said he would support keeping CART or going out on their own, but not a duplication of services.

But Green said, "I want to go all-in on this."

There was only one speaker in the public hearing portion of the meeting. Resident Debra Paul reminded the Council that Elliot Hospital, Parkland Medical Center and Southern New Hampshire Medical Center provide free transportation to and from their facilities, for seniors who are obtaining services with them. Greater Derry Caregivers and Easterseals also provide transportation, according to Paul.

If the town gets into the bus business there

will also be employee issues with benefits, plus insurance for the vehicle or vehicles, she pointed out.

Paul also said that many seniors from other towns enjoy the amenities of the Londonderry Senior Center.

"It is reasonable to ask them to show an ID," Councilor Tom Dolan said.

Paul also pressed for a number for seniors who want the service. "Is it 10? 30? 50? Five?" She said she had heard anecdotally that there was only a small amount of seniors

interested.

Smith agreed to look for a more accurate number and said he thought \$30,000 would cover the bus service.

"Let's start small," Dolan said, noting that it remains to be seen who will use the bus. He pointed out that the School District faces criticism for the number of half-empty high school buses that result when kids get licenses and cars.

Green reminded them that Londonderry Ford will provide the vehicle.

"Let's get the patronage first," Dolan responded.

ed.

Paul said in her opinion, it was more important to get the infrastructure fixed first. "The seniors who want this are not writing letters or coming to Council meetings," she said.

"This question is two years old and we've been beating it to death," Green said.

Smith agreed to sit down with Kathy Blash, director of the Senior Center, and mine some more accurate data on who wants and needs the service.



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# Teacher, Aide Approved for Preschool at Moose Hill

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

In light of a growing school population, especially among the juice-box set, the Londonderry School Board has approved a request for an additional teacher and aide for LEEP, the Londonderry Early Education Program.

In the Dec. 6 School Board meeting the board heard from Kimberly Carpinone, director of pupil services, on the need for a part-time teacher and aide for LEEP.

A semi-funded Federal mandate

Superintendent Nate Greenberg introduced the request, stating that the half-time position was needed to meet increasing enrollment. He said that the program, currently housed in the Moose Hill Kindergarten building, has nine sessions which are all full. There are 18 children in the process of being

approved and four referrals from an October Child Check. With three more Child Checks scheduled, he's preparing for more, he said. There are already 139 children in LEEP, which is "significantly higher than in the past," according to Greenberg.

Greenberg noted that under the Federal IDEA Act, there can be no more than 12 children in an early education program.

Carpinone reminded the board that Federal regulations changed two years ago and that it is more difficult to identify students who need services. "We used to get a head start on it," she said. "Now we often don't get the information until they are nearly on our doorstep." This makes it difficult to "plan, budget and staff," she said.

"It's not really a 'request,'" board member Dan Lekas observed. "We have to have teachers to

accommodate the number of children we have."

"We are already full, space-wise," member Leitha Reilly observed. "How full can we be?"

Carpinone said the facility has one classroom that is free in the afternoon.

"We also have to maintain the 50-50 ratio," Reilly said, referring to the stipulation that an early childhood program have half identified students and half typically-developing students. "It's a requirement for the IDEA grant, but the inclusion is also preferred for the kids," she said.

Carpinone said if the district cannot provide the program due to lack of space, they are still required to provide the services in a private day care or through home visits. "We still need the staff, and we will lose control of the curriculum," she said.

Member Steve Young played devil's advocate. "What if the board said no to this request?" he asked.

"I would anticipate coming back and providing

services through a private day care," Carpinone said. "We would also have to pay the part of the tuition that they would have had at LEEP."

Young also quizzed Carpinone on what part of her budget is funded by Federal grants and she said 12 percent. The Federal grant for preschool is under \$20,000, she said, to which Young responded, "So if the board said no, you'd lose \$20,000?"

That and more, Carpinone said: her entire Federal grant would be in jeopardy.

"We'd be issued an order and we'd wind up spending the money anyway," Greenberg contributed.

"We have," Young said, "no choice but to say yes."

Chairman Nancy Hendricks asked about the cost and Greenberg said for the part-time teaching position, it would range from \$32,000 to \$37,000, depending on the experience of the candidate.

"I'm uncomfortable approving this without a

firm number," Hendricks said.

Greenberg pointed out that the situation was no different from when the administration comes to them to ask for an elementary teacher. The estimate is based on a bachelor's degree plus 15 credits of graduate work and 25 percent "loaded" costs, he said.

Portables then, portables now, portables forever?

The board discussed options for dealing with the space crisis. A worst-case scenario for Moose Hill, Greenberg said, is commandeering the library for classroom space and having "library on a cart."

Young asked Carpinone about the hours at Moose Hill and she said the first session of kindergarten is 8:45 to 11:30; morning LEEP from 8:45 to 11; and afternoon sessions from noon to 2:30.

"I don't see a problem with a third shift," Young said.

There would be contractual issues, Carpinone and Greenberg said, but

Greenberg said they could hire someone with the stipulation that their day be from noon to 4. But there are lots of moving parts including speech and language, OT and physical therapy, he added.

LEEP was located off-site for several years and that is still an option, he said, though this would result in increased staff and equipment costs.

Members brought up the "P" word for portable or modular classrooms, but Hendricks objected. "I've been in districts with modular classrooms, and 'temporary' turns into permanent," she said. She said that district still has its portables 15 years later.

Reilly observed, "People who come here and spend X amount of money on a house don't envision their children in portable classrooms."

The board and administration agreed to continue to explore space options. Young amended the motion for the teacher and aide to be no more than \$48,000, and the board voted unanimously to approve it.

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## South School Fifth Graders Combine Racing and Science



Fifth-grade students at South Elementary School were visited by Tom Wahle the founder of Techsploration with a Transportation Workshop called "Mag Lev – Trains of the Future." Students learned in this hands-on-workshop how to design and build their own magnetic levitation racer. In groups of two, students used basic hand tools to build their prototypes out of high density foam. They designed and built a wind propulsion system for their racer and raced them on a electronically timed mag-lev track. Ben Geezil and David Todd, pictured above, had their classrooms fastest ship.

*Photos by Chris Paul*



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# Sophomores Bring Frosty Fun To Kids at High School

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

For Kim Botz, bringing her children to the Frosty Fun morning of activities was a win-win. As she watched them decorate Christmas cookies, she said, "He likes the sprinkles. She likes the frosting."

There was something for everyone at Frosty Fun, an event held this past Saturday morning by Londonderry High School sophomores. On a cold day, it gave parents and grandparents a warm place to take the kiddies, for a sampler of holiday fun. There were a lot of smiles, some of them through lips coated with frosting.

Michael Kennedy, spokesman for the event, said it was a benefit for the Class of 2009. "It's our second year, we did it as freshmen," Kennedy said.

The event featured

cookie decorating, several different crafts, face-painting, a bake sale and a visit with Santa. Class of 2019 members were available to read holiday stories from an array of brightly-colored picture books.

Botz brought Adrian, 5 and Madelyn, 3, to join in the fun. "It gives the kids something to do on a cold day," she said with a smile. "Otherwise, they'd be killing each other at home."

Her two children loved the crafts and the cookies, she said. "We're going to face-painting next," she said.

Miranda Galan, Maddie Croteau, Lilly Grodt and Abby Cowles supervised the cookie-decorating. The cookies were all homemade, Galan said, and "We have a ton of them."

Karen Moulton wiped a dot of frosting from 2-year-old Emily's finger. "We

found out about it on Facebook," Moulton said. With Andrew, 4, Emily and twins Joey and Johnny, 4 months, it was a good place to take the children, she said. While Joey and Johnny slept through the noise, the older two enjoyed the fun.

Crafts included little burlap bags that the children could trim with glitter, fake milkweed pods, and plastic snowflake ornaments. "There is glitter everywhere," sophomore Nick Patenaude said.

One mother carefully placed her child's creations on a paper plate next to their decorated cookie and complimentary candy cane. "We have quite a pile going on here," she said.

Mom Michelle Hayward watched McKinley, 3, fill a plastic ball with colored beads. "She likes the glitter," Hayward said.

A winter scene back-



Children attending the Frosty Fun event got to decorate and sample cookies.

drop provided photo ops, and camera phones flashed as parents posed their children in front of it. Santa was another photo op.

Julie Cowles brought her nephew Jacob Sherry, and watched as he had a soccer ball painted on his cheek. Her daughter Abby was a Class of 2019 volunteer, Cowles said.

"It's an opportunity for kids to come and do holiday thing – and to get out

of the house," Cowles said.

Ashley Tebbetts, mother of a 2-and 1-year-old, also teaches health and physical education at LHS. "We came last year," she said. "I like to support the kids."

Tebbetts brought her friend Holly MacAskill, a teacher with the Derry school system who has a toddler daughter. "I like to do anything I can to support the schools,"

MacAskill agreed as she watched her daughter run with Tebbetts' two.

"We have hit every table – crafts, cookies," MacAskill said.

For Tebbetts, Frosty Fun also has a practical aspect. "The crafts and the mess stay here," she said with a smile. "They can do the things they love, and I don't have to clean up after them."

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# LONDONDERRY SPORTS

## Lancer Girls' Hoop Squad is Young But Pretty Promising

CHRIS PANTAZIS  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High School girls' varsity basketball squad is young as it starts its new season. And the team will have their hands full trying to maintain their status as a consistent top-four finisher in

Division I.

The youthful crew includes just two seniors and one junior at the top of a roster that also features six sophomores and one freshman.

Senior swing player Kelsey Coffey (guard and forward) has been playing varsity since her fresh-

man year and has been on several title-winning Lady Lancer teams. She is the centerpiece of the LHS squad this season.

She was a vital member of the 2015-16 LHS team that went 15-3 and made it to the Division I semifinals, losing to Bedford by just a single point.

Coffey's only fellow senior among the Lady Lancers this winter is forward Hannah Hagearty, and the contingent's lone junior is guard Michaela Downing.

The sophomores include key swing player Amanda DeAngelis, a promising point-guard Emmy Dumaresq, and skilled guard Delaney McGurn, guard-forward Michelle Marino, and forwards Olivia Yerian and Paige Velie.

Freshman guard Courtney Shay, who was an asset to the Lancers' varsity field hockey squad this past fall, is the lone ninth grader.

In the team's season-opening contest at home against Manchester Memorial Friday night, Dec. 9, Coffey showed what most folks close to the team already knew in leading her squad to a 50-42 win

by netting 20 big points. She nailed six, three-point shots in that win.

The first half was a sloppy one from the for both teams, and the visiting Lady Crusaders headed to halftime grasping the tiniest of one-point leads at 24-23. Coffey led all scorers with nine points at that juncture by sinking a trio of threes.

Londonderry hit just seven of the 28 shots it lofted skyward in the opening half, with Memorial having managed to sink nine of its 23 tries.

But the hosts played considerably better in the second half, outscoring their guests by a 13-4 margin in quarter three to head into the final period with a 36-28 advantage.

The Crusaders only hit one of their eight shots from the floor during the third.

Londonderry built its lead up to its highest point at 16 points (44-28) with six minutes to go in the contest, but Memorial showed its mettle in answering by scoring 11 of the next 15 points to trim its deficit down below double digits (48-39) with about a minute left to go.

But the Lady Lancers' lead never slipped below six points despite the Lady Crusaders' best efforts to whittle it further in the final 60 seconds.

"This group is young, and I'd forgotten what it was like coaching mostly freshmen and sophomores," said coach Nick

Theos. "It's going to take some time for them and me, but they showed their mental toughness when they needed to tonight."

Of senior star Coffey, the coach said, "She's one of those kids who, when she finds her shot and gets hot, the basket gets bigger."

Along with Coffey's game-high 20 points, the victorious hosts received a dozen from DeAngelis.

Looking at the challenging battles his Lancers face this winter, Theos took a look at the teams that he expects will give his crew the toughest time.

"Bishop Guertin and Bedford are stacked with numbers and talent, and both will be difficult

Continued on page 14



Londonderry High hoop star Kelsey Coffey goes strong to the basket during her team's season-opening home win over Memorial. Photo by Chris Paul

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# LHS Swimmers Boast Good Mixes of Talent for Their New Season



LHS swimmer Mike Hession was an event winner in the opener.



Senior Anna Gruchot excelled for the Lady Lancers in their opener.

CHRIS PANTAZIS  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Few things please high school sports coaches more heading into a new season than having a solid balance of battle-tested talent and eager, skilled newcomers. And Londonderry High swimming coach Chrys Ewen appears to have both on her LHS boys' and girls' contingents this winter.

The Lancer males and Lady Lancers got their 2016-17 seasons rolling officially by playing host to multitudes of opposing squads in their home pool last Friday night, Dec. 9. And the local squads - both of which finished eighth at the Division I

championships earlier this calendar year - wound up with reasons to be pleased with their performances.

## GIRLS

The Lady Lancers' returnees include seniors Emily Buttafuoco, Anna Gruchot, Brittaney Brown, Anna Kemball-Cook, and Hailey Gagnon, and juniors Maeve McPhail, Caroline Russell, Madison Martin, Cassidy Conty, Erica Mohr, and Caity Mahan.

The newcomers - all freshmen - include Jasmine Brown, Emily Powers, Lily Law, Julia Ethier, Adrienne Lafond, and Hannah Gagnon.

In their season-opening swim, the locals faced

off against five opponents and managed a very solid 3-2 overall finish.

Londonderry defeated Bow (97-83), Campbell of Litchfield (140-10), and Hopkinton (132-29), and got bested by Bedford (135-50) and Windham (103-82).

The Lady Lancers who bagged top-three finishes that evening included Gruchot with a first in the 100-yard freestyle (1 minute, 02.47 seconds) and a third in the 200-yard individual medley (2:31.69) and Buttafuoco with a second in the 100-yard backstroke (1:07.16).

## BOYS

The Lancer males return seniors Jack Stuart, Nick Byrne, and Mike Hession, juniors Richard Chen, Rhys Van Etten, and Brian Parrott, and sophomores Harry Feig and Minsoo Kim. Added to the LHS mix for this season are sophomores Michael Crowley, Cole Tridenti, and Devin Janas, and freshmen Chris Byrne, Gabe Romanuskus and Stephen Bompastore.

Paced by its talented veterans, that LHS crew

went 2-2 against four squads with lopsided successes against Bow (119-37) and Campbell (135-12) but defeats at the hands of Bedford (125-55) and Windham (105-78).

Hession proved unbeatable in the 100 back (38.52) while Stuart snarled a second in the 100 free (59.11) and thirds in the 50 free (26.06) and the 500 free (5:58.79).

Additionally, Nick Byrne was good for a second in the 200 free (2:04.93), and the Lancers also snagged a third place in the 400 free relay (4:02.29).

## Holiday Spirit Turns Ugly



The Londonderry High School varsity cheerleaders donned their favorite ugly holiday sweaters during the Lady Lancers' varsity basketball game at home on Friday night vs. Manchester Memorial. The girls took a moment between quarters to pose for a picture.

Photo by Chris Paul



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# Lancer Wrestlers Start With Successes at Home and on the Road



LHS wrestler Vinnie DelSignore, top, had a Nashua North opponent in trouble in the locals' opener.

CHRIS PANTAZIS  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Coach Jason Cucolo saw his Londonderry High wrestling contingent enjoy successes on both their own home mats and in a rival gymnasium during the first week of the new campaign last week.

The Lancers overpowered the visiting Nashua North High Titans by a 51-28 tally in a two-team match at LHS Wednesday, Dec. 7, and then followed up that strong work with more three days later at Salem High in the annual Blue Devil Wrestling Clas-

sic.

In the knocking of North, the locals claimed victories in nine weight class bouts. Andrew Chase won an extremely quick match (17 seconds in) on a fall at 152 pounds, 170-pounder Colin Reardon also pinned his Titan rival quickly (55 seconds in), and Vinnie DelSignore notched a hard-fought, 1-0 win at 160 pounds.

Forfeit victories were collected by Dave Donnelly at 132, Taylor Dyer at 182 pounds, Ben Psaledas at 195, Minot DiLorenzo at 220 pounds, Jacob Holmes at 285 pounds, and

Brandon Drake at 113 pounds.

At the the Salem High competition on Saturday the 10th, the Lancers finished a fine third overall with a tally of 150.5 points, just ahead of Pinkerton in fourth (146.5) but behind both the title-winning Concord High Crimson Tide (229) and Lawrence Central Catholic (192) from just across the border in Massachusetts.

Londonderry had six grapplers grab top-three finishes, with Donnelly and Tyler Byrd (145) winning their respective weight class crowns,

Chase and Psaledas snagging seconds, and third places being collected by both Reardon and Santos (138).

This week's slate had the Lancers hosting a home meet against the Nashua South Purple Panthers at the middle school on Wednesday, Dec. 14, after Londonderry Times press time, and then back at home in the LHS gymnasium for their own Londonderry Holiday Tournament this Saturday the 10th against teams from both near and far. And, of course, the locals will aim to defend their turf.

## Despite Departures, Lancer Boys' Hoop Coach Likes Present Group

CHRIS PANTAZIS  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

In high school sports it's inevitable that talented players are going to step away from their respective athletic programs to move on to col-

lege or follow other paths. And overcoming significant roster losses are crosses which all programs have to bear.

But the Londonderry High School boys' basketball program has been

particularly bashed by graduation and transfer losses over the last several years, and coach Nate Stanton's LHS boys' varsity hoop squad steps into its 2016-17 campaign without key athletes like Nate Gaw and Cam Reddy and Matt Corey in Lancer red, white, and blue uniforms.

Of course, no opposing coaches or teams are going to be weeping any tears for a Londonderry High basketball squad which returns one of the top cagers in the entire state in the person of smooth-shooting 6-foot-3 guard Jake Coleman. But Stanton is pleased with the makeup of his present contingent even beyond star point-producer Coleman.

"I'm excited about this season," said the coach. "We have a good group of guys who had a good off-season. They are a fun group to coach, and I'm looking forward to having a successful season."

Other returnees from the 2015-16 Londonderry High squad which went 12-9 overall last winter - losing to the Winnacunnet High Warriors from Hampton in round one of the Division I tournament - are senior guard Cam MacDonald (6'2"), juniors Cole Britting (a 5'9" guard), Pat Zepf (6'4" forward), Dakota Bertrand (6'3" forward), and Jack Connors (6'3" forward), and sophomores Ethan Garofalo (6'1" guard) and

Ethan May (6'1" forward).

Additions to that 2015-16 group include 6'3" senior forward Brandon Radford, who played impressively on the LHS varsity team as a freshman but didn't play the last two winters.

Newcomers include juniors Ryan Chisholm (5'10" guard), Jeb Collins (6'1" forward), Shane McNamara (6'2" forward), and Cam Champa (5'9" guard), and 5'11" freshman point-guard Jack

Anderson.

Stanton expects Division I to be packed with strong teams yet again this winter, and he's anticipating that Winnacunnet, Portsmouth, Manchester Memorial, Bedford, and Merrimack may be among the strongest of them.

The squad will get its campaign rolling next Tuesday, Dec. 20 when the locals travel to Rochester to face the home-standing Spaulding High Red Raiders.

## Athletes of the Week

For the Week of Dec. 5



**David Donnelly, Sophomore, Wrestling**

This impressive 10th grader got off to a great start this season with a win over a Nashua North opponent and then a dominant performance at the Salem Blue Devil Classic.



**Kelsey Coffey, Senior, Girls' Basketball**

This skilled veteran carried her Lady Lancers past Manchester Memorial in the season-opener, scoring 20 points including six three-point buckets to go with eight rebounds.

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# Indoor Track Team Hoping Group Efforts Will Lead To Wins

CHRIS PANTAZIS  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

As they step into their first meets of the 2016-17 season this Saturday at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, the Londonderry High winter track teams are hoping that an "All for one and one for all" approach to competition will yield successes.

Veteran coaches Sue Johnson and Matt Smith have seen lots happen in their years leading the Lady Lancer and Lancer male squads respectively. And after seeing their teams lose talented athletes to graduation and/or injuries since the close of the 2015-16 campaign earlier this year, the two mentors feel that having everybody pulling hard in one direction will make the LHS squads competitors to watch once again this winter.

## GIRLS

Longtime Lady Lancer leader Johnson had her

team post a truly stellar 28-1 meet record last winter before finishing third in the Division I championship meet.

Johnson is always an strong proponent of team efforts overshadowing individual ones, and that's the case even more this year going into league meet number one.

"More so than ever a team effort from veterans and newcomers, young and old, is key," she said. "Before the season began, three team members who planned to return were lost due to injuries. Graduation also took its toll. We need to be invested in and excited about the abilities, skills, and good attitudes we do have as all three are plentiful. There can be no benchwarmers. For us to duplicate the previous successes this program has had, we have to be all in."

Among the team's veteran returnees are seniors Ellie Goodspeed (a

sprinter), Lexy Freire (versatile), Lindsey Guenther (throws), Gretchen McGrath (sprints and middle-distance events), Bella Ziolk (sprints and mids), Elizabeth Stubbs (mids), and Keira Fitzmaurice (mids).

The juniors include Jess Brien (sprints and jumps), Jill Doris (versatile), Kalin Gregoire (mids), Kiara Quitayen (sprints), and Alexandra Seeley (mids), and sophomore veterans Ashley Lynch (mids) and Theresa Nickerson (sprints) are also important to the mix.

Newcomers to the team include sophomores Britney Fernandez (sprints and jumps), Essence McCarthy (sprints and jumps), and Kaelyn Rourke (long sprints and

mids), and freshmen Ciara Amarena (versatile), Caitlin Borovicka (mids), Caitlin Boufford (mids), and Cailey McDonough (mids).

When asked to point out the Division I opponents who she feels will be toughest this season, Johnson noted Bedford, Bishop Guertin of Nashua, Pinkerton, and Nashua South.

## BOYS

Former LHS runner and present coach Smith saw his 2015-16 winter contingent place a solid fifth in the Division I title meet earlier this year. And there's a good bunch of important returnees back from that crew.

That number includes senior distance men Chris Zaino, Kyle Freire, and Declan Hotter, as well as

their fellow 12th grader Brandyn Proulx who is a sprinter.

There's also a very healthy and talented bunch of juniors, including Nathan Seeley (distances), Brian Metro (distances), Jake Donnelly (distances), Zach Ford (sprints), Kyle Dickson (sprints), Cam Taranto (sprints), and Jacob Dionne (sprints).

The team also boasts a couple of skilled sophomore returnees in Khalique Bagley (sprints) and Carter Letalien (distances). And coach Smith feels good about what incoming junior sprinters Dylan Walsh and Anthony Pirolli could possibly accomplish.

"For the most part, we are a young team and cer-

tainly a very inexperienced team," said the coach. "For us to be successful, our group of young sprinters and jumpers needs to continue to develop. The last couple of years we've had a strong distance group, and they will need to be strong again and fill in spots in the relays. That said, it's a group that is anxious to get out there and prove themselves, so it should be exciting."

Like many coaches in D-I, Smith sees one distinct front-running team in the championship hunt.

"The favorite is Pinkerton, and then everyone else way back," he said.

The Pinkerton Astros have won the last five Division I titles.

## Girls' Hoops

Continued from page 11

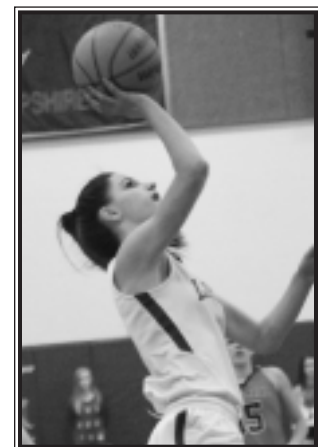
opponents, but they are every year," he said. "Dover will be a team to watch as well as Pinkerton and Winnacunnet."

And Theos feels that

his charges could be a thorn in the sides of the best competition in Division I when all the cards are on the table early in the new year.

"We have a lot of energy and skills individually, but we need to grow into

a team," he said. "If we can stay positive and learn from early mistakes, I think we will be competitive come March. With only 18 girls in the program, we don't have much room for injuries or complacency. We need to put our heads down and work for two straight months, then pick them up and see where we stand going into the last month of the season. If we do that, I think we will have a successful season."



Amanda DeAngelis was good for 12 points in her team's opening win.

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# Lancer Gymnasts Start Defense of Title in Exceptional Style

CHRIS PANTAZIS  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Any opponents thinking that the defending state champion Londonderry High School girls' gymnastics squad will be down a notch this season after losing standout Jill McIntire and others to graduation will certainly decide to alter that thinking after seeing the Lady Lancers' scores in their season-opening home meet at LHS this past Monday.

The 2016-17 crew began its campaign by tallying a glittering team score of 135.6 to easily outdistance the Bedford Lady Bulldogs (125.25), Goffstown Lady Grizzlies (122.15), and Manchester Central Little Green (116.15).

"Hosting the very first meet of the entire gymnastics season is never easy for any team, but my girls truly came together with only having three weeks of practice prior to this meet," said coach Heather Tuden. "This is our best team score in a season-opener since I have been coaching. We definitely have a lot of

room for improvement, but I'm so happy with the results."

Maddie Croteau lit up the night for the home-standing Lady Lancers, winning on vault (score of 9.05), in the floor exercise (9.2), and in the all-around (34.85), and claiming third places on the uneven bars and the balance beam (the latter in a tie with teammate Chelsea Pinet).

Her teammate Mira Kutney was all kinds of impressive as well, notching second places on vault (8.3), bars (8.0), beam (8.8, tying teammate Suzie Moore), and in the all-around (34.00), and also taking third place in the floor exercise.

And Londonderry's Seana Kelley proved unbeatable on the bars with her winning score of 8.15.

Other top-three placements came from Taylor Mackenzie and Pinet on vault (tied for third) and Camille Lamont in the floor exercise (second with a 9.1).

But Tuden had numerous reasons to praise her



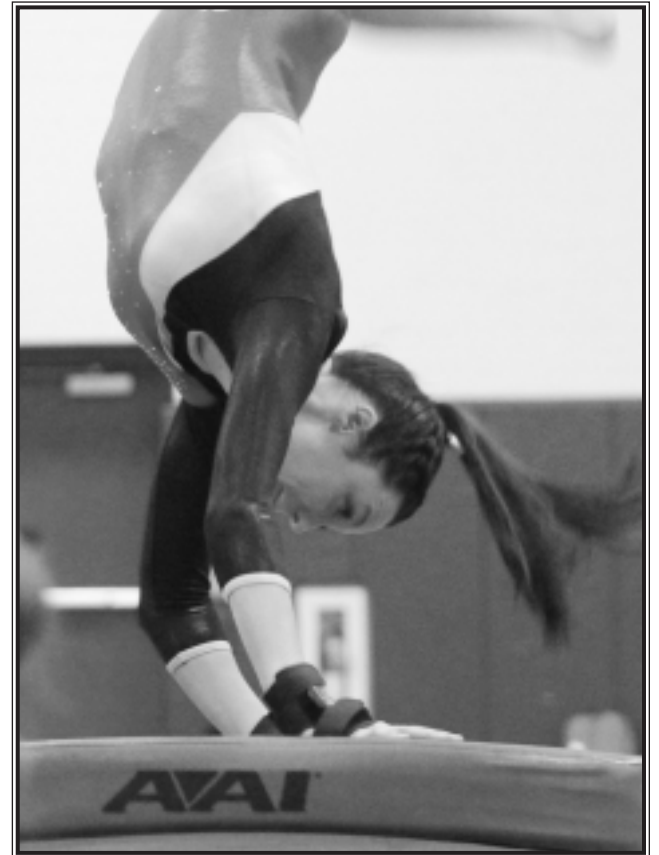
Mira Kutney tied for second on the balance beam with LHS teammate Suzie Moore.

Lancers in plenty of events on this extremely productive night.

"We had other strong vaults from Gianna Del-Viscovo and Tara Nigro, Marissa McKay and Taylor MacKenzie also helped the team on bars, we had solid routines from Seana Kelly and Tyla Kelley on the beam, and Tara Nigro and Taylor MacKenzie also helped the team by dancing it up on floor," said Tuden.

Could this be the first

step toward defending their state championship? Well, time will certainly tell, but it's hard to imagine anybody in Londonderry garb expecting a more impressive start to a campaign.



Maddie Croteau was Londonderry's top scorer - and the overall winner - on the vault with a 9.05.

Photos by Chris Paul

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People may experience depressed mood, anxiety, disruptive behavior or other problems. Generally, there is an improvement within six months of the stressful event coming to an end. Taking good care of your emotional needs, talking to a trusted

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# AROUND TOWN

**Around Town Policy:** This section is meant to be used to announce free events to the communities. If your group or non-profit is receiving money for what they are publicizing, there will be a charge of \$40.00/week per paper. All Around Town/Calendar Items will be held to 100 words maximum; anything over will incur a charge of \$40.00/week for up to another 50 words. All free announcements in the Around Town/Calendar section can run a maximum of 3 weeks. Deadline for submissions is Monday at 5 p.m.

**Additionally:** We will run the full versions of any calendar items online free of charge at [www.nutpub.net](http://www.nutpub.net). Please send items to [calendar@nutpub.net](mailto:calendar@nutpub.net).

## Lions Tree Sale

The Londonderry Lions Club has opened its annual Christmas tree sale. The trees, fresh from Vermont, are available at the Lions Hall, 256 Mammoth Road. Trees range in size from 6 feet to 13 feet. A limited number of deliveries are available depending on Lions' availability and their trucks. Proceeds benefit Lions' charities. The sale is open Thursday and Friday, 3 to 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The sale is open every week until all

400 trees are sold or Christmas Eve, whichever comes first. For more information e-mail [tomcooper6171@gmail.com](mailto:tomcooper6171@gmail.com).

## Learn about Outstanding Aviator

Bob Hoover, regarded by many as the greatest aviator of his time, will be the subject of a program at the Aviation Museum in Londonderry. The presentation will be Thursday, Jan. 12, at 6 p.m. For more information contact Jessica Pappathan, Executive Director, at 669-4820 or [jpappathan@nhahs.org](mailto:jpappathan@nhahs.org)

## Brighten a Life with Hospice

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

## Share Holiday with Feathered Friends

The Londonderry Rotary Club will sell birdseed wreaths now through Dec. 20. The eight inch handmade wreaths use an exclusive Duncraft birdseed formula to satisfy birds' hunger. The wreaths come with a red raffia bow and a natural jute hanger, and are boxed with a bow for easy gift-giving. Cost is \$15 each. For more information or a purchase contact Faye Sell, 434-4989; Mike Dolan, 774-245-2279; or Claudia Charbonneau, 425-4532.

## VA Bingo

On Dec. 26 Post 27 will be playing bingo with patients at the VA Hospital in Manchester from 7-8:30 pm. Pizza and diet soda will be served as well as providing \$150 in prize money. Anyone interested in helping out can sign-up at the Post. For more information go to [www.alpost27.com](http://www.alpost27.com) or call 437-6613.

## VFW Christmas

In conjunction with the local VFW Post #8214 Auxil-

iary, LHS Art students in Mimi Johnson and Suzanne Hjlem's classes made ceramic pocket charms and art cards to be sent by NH Operation Care For Our Troops at their November Nashua/ National Guard Armory Christmas Stocking Overseas Troop Packing. LHS Faculty and the VFW Post Auxiliary members hail the extraordinary efforts of the LHS students. These donations will go directly to troops in Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq. NHOTC does 4 overseas troop shipments yearly. For more info on this story please email [dharmon@londonderry.org](mailto:dharmon@londonderry.org)

## Visit with T-Rex

Take a trip back in time with T-Rex, star of the popular "How Do Dinosaurs" series by Jane Yolen on Monday, Dec. 19 from 4 - 5 p.m. During this program, participants will hear tales of dinosaurs big and small. We will try to excavate a dinosaur skeleton and identify different types of dinosaurs. All audience members will receive a pith helmet to help set the mood for dinosaur discovery, and one lucky

participant will leave with a T-Rex pillow to snuggle. There will be plenty of time for a hug and picture with T-Rex. This fun-filled program is open to 90 participants of all ages. Advance registration is required and begins at 9 a.m. on Monday, December 12. To register call 432-1127 or stop by the Children's Room.

## Winter Session Programs

The Children's Room at the Leach Library will be offering the following programs: Craft Time, Shake, Move & Read, and Toddler Time. Winter Session 1 will run Jan. 11 through 19. These dates include a break for the winter holidays. Advance registration is required and began on Monday, November 28. To register, call 432-1127 or stop by the Children's Room.

## Holiday Library Hours

The library will close at 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 24, and re-open at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, December 27. The library will also close at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Decem-

Continued on page 17

# Greater Derry Humane Society Doesn't Take Holidays

MELISSA BETH RUIZ  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

"We will never be rich," said Paula Dunlavey, Chairwoman of the board at the Greater Derry Humane Society.

"But our dogs will be fat," nodded her husband, Marty Dunlavey, President of the group.

Day after day, the Dunlaveys give their all to ensure that cats, dogs, and even other critters throughout New Hampshire and from out of state have food, shelter, and veterinary care. And they do it all out of their Derry home.

After the previous president of the society had passed away, it seemed like it would be the end of the Greater Derry Humane Society. But after they learned of what would happen, this husband and wife team stepped up to make sure that would not be the case.

"For one thing, we thought it was a necessity for it to be back," Paula Dunlavey said of their decision. She and her husband had been fostering

for the Greater Derry Humane Society at the time of the previous president's passing, and in 2014 they took over, starting over from the bottom.

"We had just retired, so that gave us a little bit more time to do it," said Marty Dunlavey. "It's not a hobby, but full time work around the clock."

According to Paula, their revival of the GDHS was initially met with some resistance, but they kept fighting, and today she says everyone seems to be happy that they have made it successful. But the fight didn't stop there.

"We had to fight to be known," explained Paula. "A lot of people thought we went away, and we had to fight to get our name out."

Marty explained that they have spent a lot of their own money to ensure that the society was known in the community, but they have also had some help along the way.

Nearby businesses such as Woof Meow and Tractor Supply Company have

helped supply the society with pet food, and T-Bones restaurant has helped to raise about \$8,500, the biggest monetary donation they have received, through a fundraising event.

But the GDHS is never able to hang on to donations for very long.

Paula told the story of a dog named Blue whom they took in from Florida who had had ACL surgery. When he was brought up to New Hampshire, he needed to have another surgery, requiring a specialist, and his resulting bill was roughly \$3,000.

She agreed that often people don't take into account the cost for veterinary care that can factor into adoption fees, but at the Greater Derry Humane Society, potential adoptive parents are only charged fees based on their pet's age, regardless of what it may have cost the Dunlaveys in transport and medical charges.

"We try to keep our fees low," explained Paula. "I like to think that

the average person can get a good animal."

The Dunlaveys do their best to take care of and find homes for all the animals that come to them, at all times of the day, whether they receive them in person, or through the occasional discovery of a crate at the end of the driveway to their residence. They won't turn away any animal, regardless of age or health.

"If we can find a foster, we'll take most any kind of animal," Paula said. "We get people who want to give us hamsters, snakes, guinea pigs, birds&hellip; the beginning we were taking them in, thinking we could adopt them out, but it's hard to." She agreed that this was attributed to the fact that the majority of these smaller pets are easily accessible at large chain pet stores for a low cost.

But the pets they agreed had the hardest time finding homes are their senior pets. They currently have two cats,

one age 10 and the other age 14. Paula explained that often times people are afraid of the medical costs that can come with having an older pet, and usually people are afraid to lose them.

"But sometimes there are strong people who adopt them," Marty said. He recalled a time when they had someone come to them to adopt an elderly dog with cancer, so that the dog would have someone to comfort him through the process. The dog is currently still enjoying life with his adopted parent.

Paula said that this year's holiday season is special because they believe that they have found adoptive parents lined up for almost all of their cats and dogs.

"So many people have been stepping up so that these guys will have a home for Christmas," she said.

In the future, the Dunlaveys hope to expand the GDHS's services.

"One of these days, we would like to start a pro-

gram for seniors where they could have an animal and volunteers can help them with care," Paula said. She explained that often times, seniors have to give up their beloved pets because they cannot keep up with the cost and maintenance. She also said she would love to be able to help with training services again.

Volunteers are always needed and welcome at the GDHS. Marty mentioned they would love for people to be able to come and help them to walk the dogs, and Paula said it would be a great help to have people help with computer work and with their website. Donations are also welcomed and appreciated, be it monetary, food, etc.

Those interested in helping the Greater Derry Humane Society continue to help animals in need, or who would like to foster or adopt may please visit their website at <http://derryhumanesociety.com/home.html>, or call (603) 434-1512.



## Around Town

Continued from page 16

ber 31, and re-open at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

### LEEP Preschool

The Londonderry School District's Londonderry Early Education Program (LEEP) inclusion preschool is accepting applications for the current school year. Londonderry children who turned 3 by Sept. 1 are eligible. Programs for 3-year-olds meet from 8:45 to 11 a.m. two or four days per week; prekindergartners meet from noon to 2:30 p.m. three or four days per week. Tuition is \$145/month for the two-day/week preschool and

\$195/month for four days/week. Prekindergarten is \$180 for three days/ month and \$195/month for four days/week. For details, call Kathy Kelley at 437-5855, ext. 7223 or kkelley@londonderry.org or Kim Speers at kspeers@londonderry.org. The LEEP handbook is online at moose.londonderry.org.

### Movie Time

Come to the library on Thursday, December 8, from 3:15 - 5:15 p.m. for our Young Adult Movie Time program. All participants in grades 6 through 12 will enjoy the 2016 epic adventure movie The Jungle Book, along with popcorn and beverages. In addition, there will

be a raffle for fun door prizes at this special event. No sign up is necessary.

### Dancers Unite to Help

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

wish-2017/. Business owners may also donate an item for the raffle. Tickets to the event are \$15 each. For more information write to mhdcdance@comcast.net.

### Free meals

The following free meals are offered in January: Jan. 8, Dinner at Church of the Transfiguration, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 1 Hood Road, Derry, 432-2130; Jan. 15, Dinner at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 5 to 6:15 p.m., 1 Hood Road, Derry, 432-0004; Jan. 19, Dinner at West Running Brook Middle School, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 1 West Running Brook Lane, Derry, 432-1350; Jan. 21, Dinner at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 5 to

6:30 p.m., 63 East Broadway, Derry, 434-4767; Jan. 29, Breakfast at Church of the Transfiguration, 9 to 10 a.m., 1 Hood Road, Derry, 432-2130; Jan. 27, Spaghetti Supper at First Parish Congregational Church, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 47 East Derry Road, Derry, 434-0628; and Jan. 29, Lunch at St. Jude Parish Community, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., 435 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, 432-3333. In addition, the Sonshine Soup Kitchen serves a free meal every weeknight from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

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### Medieval Times

On Monday, Jan. 9 from 4 to 5 p.m. the Leach Library will present Medieval Times. All participants will leave with a metallic crown and plush dragon. The program is open to 90 participants of all ages. Advance registration for this program is required and begins at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 3. To register, call 432-1127 or stop by the Children's Room.

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## Londonderry Police Log

### Selections from the Londonderry Police Logs

#### Tuesday - Dec. 6

**9:50 a.m.** Suspicious Activity Reported at N.H. Liquor Store on Rockingham Road

**1:36 p.m.** Burglary reported on Norwich Place.

**2:30 p.m.** Services Rendered to Keep the Peace Action Rainbow Drive.

Unit Number: 3 Officer: Officer Adam King.

**6:03 p.m.** Suspicious Activity Investigated on Stage Coach Circle.

#### Wednesday - Dec. 7

**10:49 a.m.** Suspicious Activity Investigated on Old Derry Road.

**2:09 p.m.** Domestic Disturbance Investigated on Wilson Road.

**2:36 p.m.** Assisted Londonderry Fire Dept at Fleetpride Inc. on Liberty Drive.

**7:50 p.m.** Assisted Londonderry Fire Dept at Veloce Imports on Londonderry Road.

#### Thursday - Dec. 8

**6:28 a.m.** Domestic Disturbance reported and Peace Restored on Wilson Road.

**8:00 a.m.** Motor Vehicle Stop results in Arrest made on Pillsbury Rodd near U-pick #3. Tyler Syphers, 24, of Litchfield charged with Possession of Drugs in a Motor Vehicle and Possession of Controlled/narcotic Drugs.

**8:24 a.m.** Suspicious Activity Investigated on Mam-

moth Road, South of Shasta.

**11:34 a.m.** Missing Person Investigated on Winding Pond Road.

**3:22 p.m.** Drug Offenses Investigated at Taco Bell on Nashua Road.

**4:04 p.m.** Domestic Disturbance Investigated at Charmand Row.

#### Friday - Dec. 9

**7:02 a.m.** Suspicious Activity reported at Horsehoe Lane.

**10:55 a.m.** Suspicious Activity reported on Adams Rd at Apple Orchards.

**12:41 p.m.** Motor Vehicle Accident reported on Nashua Road and Gilcreast Road involving 2009 Toyota Venza, 2003 Honda Civic and 2014 Ford Escape.

**1:08 p.m.** Juvenile Offenses reported at Londonderry Middle School on Mammoth Road.

**6:15 p.m.** Motor Vehicle Accident reported at Nashua Road and Garden Lane involving a 2015 Dump Truck, 2007 Jeep Grand Cherokee and 2015 Chevy 1500.

#### Sunday - Dec 11

**1:26 a.m.** Motor Vehicle Check results in Arrest at Burger King on Nashua Road. Paul Smith, 32, Weymouth, MA arrested for Possession of Controlled/Narcotic Drugs.

**10:40 a.m.** Jeremy Cooke, 40 of Londonderry was served warrant and arrested at Londonderry Police Department for Fugitive from Justice charges.



### TOWN OF LONDONDERRY ZONING BOARD

WILL MEET **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2016** AT 7:00 P.M. in the Moose Hill Council Chambers, 268B Mammoth Road

#### AGENDA

- I. DRAFT MINUTES TO APPROVE: November 2016
- II. REPORT BY TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON (IF ANY): N/A
- III. PUBLIC HEARING OF CASES:  
CASE NO. 12/21/2016-1: REQUEST FOR A VARIANCE FROM LZO 2.4.3.B.2 TO ALLOW FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ADDITION TO UNIT 36 WHICH WILL ENCROACH 33" INTO THE LANDSCAPING BUFFER ZONE, 1 F COMMONS DRIVE - UNIT 36, MAP 10, LOT 001, ZONED C-III, NEW HARBOR PROPERTIES (OWNER) & BENCHMARK ENGINEERING, INC. (APPLICANT)
- IV. COMMUNICATIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS
- V. OTHER BUSINESS

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# Kettle Blitz Involves Entire Salvation Army Community

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY  
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Joe Aberarieser's plate, and cart, were full as he hurried out of the Derry Walmart Supercenter. But he stopped to put a folded bill into the Salvation Army kettle. "They do a lot of great work, they help a lot of people in need," Aberarieser said. "I'm happy to do my little bit."

The "little bits" added up this past Thursday when, in conjunction with Salvation Army units across the northeast, the Derry facility held its annual Kettle Blitz. A corps of volunteers took one-hour shifts all day in front of the Derry Walmart, hoping to reach a goal of \$200,000 to help the area needy.

Lt. Kathryn Mayes, director of the local office, rang a bell vigorously outside the grocery entrance to the store. She

was accompanied by "Santa" and Advisory Board member Ken Slater.

"I got drafted 16 years ago," Slater said. "They convinced me Derry needed a Salvation Army. It's an incredible organization, with incredible people."

He bell-rings every year. What gets him out, in the cold and dark? "The people," he said. "The little kids grab their parents to give them money to give."

Children, some in carriages and some on foot, came up to the kettle to drop in change.

Mayes said the Blitz is an annual tradition involving the whole Salvation Army community. The event involved board members and other volunteers along with Mayes and her associate, Lt. Kathryn Bender. "The morning was brisk," Mayes, who had been there all day, said. "Some people came and played instru-

ments."

There was entertainment for the evening shift as the Stevens sisters, Lorie, Annabella and Madison, came over to sing Christmas carols for the workers and passers-by.

"When there are more people here, more people tend to stop," Mayes said.

Santa said it had been an "awesome" day. "I've seen a lot of good kids," he said as he posed for photos with the Stevens carolers. "Everybody's on my 'good list' this year."

Santa said he chose to make a Derry stop because, "There are a lot of good people here. They do a lot of good things for people in need."

On the other end of the complex, Lt. Kathryn Bender rang bells with two young boys from the Salvation Army church's Sunday School. "It is going well," Bender said. "We've seen a lot of gener-

ous people."

The weather "hasn't been too bad," Bender said. But as she stamped her feet to get warm she added, "It's gotten colder as the night goes on."

Tina DiBona, advisory board member, wore an elf hat as she shook the bell. "My husband Bill and I are both on the board, and we do this every year," she said.

"I love the 'Christmas spirit,'" DiBona said. "And I know the Salvation Army helps so many needy people in the community,"

"This is the true meaning of Christmas," DiBona said. "And it brings a smile to everyone's faces."

Back at the grocery entrance, Advisory Board member Kim Gagnon and volunteer Debbie Curtin took over from Slater. Between greeting shoppers and offering the free coffee and cocoa, Curtin said she has rung the bell



Lucas Coleman, 3, does his bit during the Greater Derry Salvation Army's "Kettle Blitz" held this past Thursday.

*Photos by Kathleen Bailey*

many times, but that this was her first time at the Blitz. "The people are nice," she said. "They all say hello."

The cold didn't bother Curtin. "I have my thermals on," she said with a smile.

For Gagnon, it's a time to labor and to see the

fruits of her labors. "Many people," she said, "come by and say, 'Thank you. The Salvation Army helped me when I was in a tough spot.'"

Bryson Hook, 9, had a simple explanation as he put a dollar in the kettle: "It's so they can have more money to do stuff."

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