

Londonderry Times

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A FREE Weekly Publication



A Decade in the Making

The Matthew Thornton Drama Club is celebrating its tenth year of producing plays at the school with Annie Jr. Pictured, Leah Kemball-Cook playing the mean hearted Miss Hannigan with her orphans. See story page 8.

Photo by Chris Paul

State Says Absentee Ballots Are Not A Snow Day Option

KATIE O'DONNELL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

For a second straight year, Mother Nature swirled up a nor'easter that threatened local elections prompting many towns, like Londonderry, to advertise the use of absentee ballots. Voting by absentee ballot can only be done in cer-

tain circumstances, and unfortunately, terrible weather is not one of them.

The Town of Londonderry's website posted a public notice on March 12, inviting those who would be out of town to pick up an absentee ballot at the Town Clerk's Office so they could still

vote.

The post said, "if you think you will be out of town and not able to make it to the polls, you may pick up and fill out an ABSENTEE BALLOT at Town Hall."

There was an update on the website later in the day to clarify what "not

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Council Hopes Comcast Will Provide Wi-Fi on the Common

LORI COSTA
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Comcast Renewal Agreement was presented to the Town Council at their most recent meeting by Bill August, who has been working as a legal counselor in the town's Comcast cable license renewal process. August has been working closely with both Town Manager Kevin Smith and Cable Coordinator Drew Caron while going through the lengthy negotiations process with the representatives from Comcast.

The town previously held a public hearing on the Comcast renewal back in February of 2017 after the public was given

the opportunity to comment on Londonderry's cable related needs and interests. Since that time, drafted language of the town's wishes have been circulating to be able to meet the public's needs. One major concern that was brought up by Vice-Chairman John Farrell was being able to have Wi-Fi on the Town Common. "In today's day and age, this should be easy," Farrell said. August was happy to relay the message to the representatives at Comcast and negotiate on the town's behalf. August did, however, say that Comcast will not include language about non-cable services in the cable franchise.

This would have to be a separate type of negotiation. "That does not mean we cannot follow up on that," August said. "We don't want to create the false expectation that they will provide language about that in the license document." Farrell made a point again to say that Wi-Fi is needed on the Town Common. Chairman Tom Dolan stepped in to say that the town would like August to step into negotiations with Comcast on the town's behalf to make a separate agreement saying that the town would like Comcast to provide Wi-Fi service to the community that often congre-

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Public Hearings Held on Pole Licensing and Communications

LORI COSTA
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Town Council held several public hearings at their meeting on Monday, March 5, including two on the current communications system used by the police and fire department and the new language concerning pole licensing.

The public hearing for the sale of communications easement to ATC Sequoia, LLC was presented by Doug Smith. Smith acknowledged that this public hearing was to approve the \$520,000 (the proposed sale price) of a lease that was originally constructed by the town

back in 2008 from the revenue from a cell tower. Currently in fiscal year 2018, the revenue stream from the cell tower generates just over \$31,000 to the town of Londonderry according to Doug Smith.

Smith went on to say that lease does include perspective extensions to a five-year term (carried all the way into 2038), but the revenue generated from this cell tower is not guaranteed. The company that agrees to the lease, also reserves the right to terminate the lease at their discretion with sixty days' notice.

When considering these factors, the town also looked for ways to

help finance the town-wide communications project. There have been multiple companies interested in purchasing the revenue stream in a lump sum amount between the months of June and September of 2017.

Those amounts ranged from \$395,000 to just over \$400,000. In doing

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South School Fifth Graders Perform Puppet Shows



Pat Picciano finished his Artist in Residence program at South Elementary School recently by working with fifth grade students in the art room performing in small groups to each other with their puppets. Over the course of five weeks Picciano help students design and create their own puppets, afterwhich they created a play for their puppets in their groups.

Photo by Chris Paul


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Reflections Abound at Annual PTA Art Exhibition in Derry

KATIE O'DONNELL
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Throughout the school year, students have been reflecting on a simple phrase, "within reach," and creating works of art to showcase what it means to them as part of the National PTA Reflections program. On March 9, the New Hampshire PTA hosted a regional competition at the Gilbert H. Hood Middle School in Derry. Students from around the area (and some as far away as Hampton) gathered in the gym to display art, photographs, dances, musical compositions, literature and more to friends, families and 10 different judges.

The gym was filled with a menagerie of artistic expression by everyone from kindergarteners to high schoolers. There was even a group for "special artists," those who are part of their respective schools' special education programs, to participate in each category.

"You're not just seeing the smart kids or the artistic kids," said NH PTA President Michelle McKin-

non. "You see everyone."

McKinnon is a big advocate for the program because she feels it grants students equal opportunity to not only create, but to compete. The program is broken into six different categories, literature, film, dance, music, photography and visual arts. Students are ranked based on their age and level. There is the "special artist," as well as primary, intermediate, middle school and high school level. The primary level is for kindergarten through second grade while intermediate runs from third grade to fifth. In each level the students can gain an honorable mention, or win first, second or third place. First place winners in each category have their projects sent to the national competition in Washington D.C. to be judged in May.

"It's such a great way for these students to express themselves artistically," said McKinnon. "It's just a great expression of art!"

Gabriela McSweeney, a sixth grader from Hood Middle School said she

enjoys creating movies for the program because, "it's fun!"

"I like that you can be really creative," said McSweeney. She used her iPhone and iMovie to create a video about what she considered to be "within reach."

McSweeney's mother, Yara, explained that "there's no parent intervention... so it's fun to see what comes out in the end." According to the Reflections program rules, parents are not allowed to assist the students with creating their projects.

McSweeney was happy with her second-place win, "especially against eighth graders," she said. It was her first time competing in the middle school category, but she plans to do it again next year.

The only "parent intervention" the Smith siblings from Londonderry received was their mother fueling their love of photography. The three kids from South School each submitted photos, some of which they took using their mother's Nikon D810. Jake, the eldest had three photos in the competition, and took an honorable mention in



Lila, Jake and Izzy Smith of Londonderry show off their photography awards at the NH PTA Reflections Night.

the intermediate level for his piece called, "Reach for the sky."

Jake's sisters, both of whom entered at the primary level, took home awards as well. Lila, a second grader, won third place for the photo she took of her teacup poodle named Pheobe.

"I thought that everyone would totally want it in first place because my dog is adorable," said Lila.

The last Smith sibling competing was the youngest, Isabella (called Izzy by her family). In

what is sure to be a sore topic for family dinners to come, Izzy took home first place with her photo called, "Love." It was of a small red stone with the word "love" painted in bold, black letters.

Izzy said she painted the rock because, "I like being loved. I wanted a decoration like that." She was so inspired by her new rock that "I took a picture of it, of me reaching out" for the rock.

All three siblings are excited to take more photos for next year's Reflections program.

Next year's theme is

"Heroes Around Me." McKinnon said she is excited for next year and hopes the weather cooperates better than it did this year.

"I think tonight went very well considering we had to contend with a nor'easter," said McKinnon.

Matthew Thornton Elementary School had Lillian McKinney take Third in Visual Arts. Rono Hernandez received Honorable Mention Visual Arts and Jamie Nease got Honorable Mention with her Photography entry.

Correction:

In the March 1 edition of the Londonderry Times, Richard Flores was incorrectly referenced in our story on the Senior Resource Committee's discussion on CART. Richard Darveau was the committee member who spoke about the negative experience he had when trying to book his first appointment with CART. All subsequent references to Mr. Flores should have been attributed to Mr. Darveau.

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Editorial

Read Across America

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

Dr. Seuss's birthday is March 2, but month long celebrations are taking place all over. True to the famed children's author, school activities focus on reading.

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

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

exam questions, reading follows us through our lives.

Read Across America isn't just for kids. There is great enjoyment to be had from sitting by a warm fire or relaxing by a pool and letting a good book transport you to another world. If your child's asks you to spend a little extra time reading at home this week, go for it. In the midst of busy, out of control schedules, it will be time well spent. While you're at it, schedule a trip to the children's room at your local library. Seeing an entire building filled with books can open up yet another memorable reading experience for your youngster.

There is also great enjoyment to be had from learning something new from and informative nonfiction on your favorite figure or subject. Whatever the genre, there's nothing quite like getting lost in a good book, these habit starts young.

Across America underscores the importance of the simple act of picking up a book and getting lost in its story. You can read on your phone, you can read on a computer, a paper and best of all, you can read a book. And when you read to a child, you're building memories for both of you. As Dr. Seuss wrote, "You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pickup a book and read to a child."

Soccer Group's Unification Will Go Before Town Council

LORI COSTA
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Soccer unification was a hot topic at the meeting of the Recreation Committee on Monday night. The first topic was getting the Londonderry Soccer Club recognized as the one and only soccer organization in Londonderry. The Recreation Committee took a vote and recommended that this be made so.

Representatives from the Londonderry Youth Soccer Association (LYSA) also spoke to Town Manager Kevin Smith about the changes they would like to see made to the Sanctioned Recreation Group Guidelines, because of past disagreements with other organizations.

LYSA sought to get the approval from the Recreation Committee before putting forth their request to the Town Council. As of today, the sanction currently reads "A1: A minimum of 60% of the participation are residents of Londonderry and the program is available to all age-appropriate Londonderry residents. The participation ratio applies to all teams within an organization with exception to adult recreation teams whose participation ratio applies to

the organization. If any team within an organization is unable to meet the 60% criteria the organization may petition the Commission for a waiver to this rule." The proposed new verbiage of the rule as presented by LYSA is: "A minimum of 60% of the participants are residents of Londonderry and all programs will be available to all age-appropriate Londonderry residents. The participation ratio applies to all players that play within the organization." This does not turn away kids that are from Londonderry, but allows more flexibility for LYSA to take in non-Londonderry kids and have enough for a team.

The second guideline that was put forth for change was "A12: Sanctioned groups may not enter into any contracts with, or give permission to, any other unsanctioned group for use of any of the fields. All fields use will be arranged through the recreation commission to sanctioned groups only." Although the representatives from LYSA had put forth their own re-wording of the guideline, it was intensely debated between members of the Recreation Commission. All field use is normally

OK'd by Recreation Director Art Psaledas and if there is a problem, the organization would go directly to the Recreation Committee. As far as using town facilities, the fields are used by softball, lacrosse, and soccer teams. Regardless, the outside organization that wishes to use a field run by the Recreation Committee needs to get permission from them first in order to do so.

After over an hour of deliberations, the new guideline put forth read as follows "A12: Sanctioned groups may enter into non-financial partnerships with other outside groups for the use of the facilities in order to better promote their sport and improve the quality of the development of the Londonderry players. All facilities use and partnerships will be arranged and managed by the town sanctioned organization with the approval from the Recreation Committee."

The next step before going to the Town Council for approval will be having the town attorney take a look at this guideline and give his opinion before it is given to the Town Council for approval.

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Wi-Fi

Continued from page 1

gates on the Town Common. Not just for convenience, but also for safety or young kids who need to call their parents.

August also made sure to tell the council that Comcast does not want to start the precedent of putting non-cable things in cable licenses. "That's a big new precedent." August said. It may be,

however, possible for the town to negotiate a separate agreement with Comcast about this issue. One of the very significant elements in this renewal license is that Comcast upgrade its remote origination from the Town Common and other municipal sites to a fiber system to interconnect the municipal locations to bring a cable signal back to the Londonderry Access Center. This proposed new license also

includes (unlike the prior license) specifications for Comcast within 18 months to complete the construction of the new fiber system. One condition on Comcast's part was to make this new license effective in 2018 within about two months. There are still a lot of moving parts, but the council is confident that negotiations will go well and the town will soon be headed for a public hearing.

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

Ballots

Continued from page 1

able to make it to the polls,” meant. In the updated post, it said “you may only vote via absentee ballot today if you meet the criteria of such set in state law which includes being out of town, employment commitment which prevents you from voting on election day, or religious commitment.” There was a further clarification within the post to elaborate on what “employment commitment” meant, stating that it “includes taking care of children and/or infirm adults, with or without compensation.”

In short, not being able to get to the high school due to snow does not meet the criteria to be able to vote via absentee ballot

Last year, many communities across the state ended up postponing Town Meeting Day due to the severe inclement weather. This year, how-

ever, the state put its foot down and said that despite the snow, the elections must go on.

“New Hampshire law does not contain a provision that authorizes any public official to postpone an election,” according to a statement issued by Secretary of State William Gardner and Attorney General Gordon MacDonald.

The pair issued a memo to town officials across the Granite State on March 6, explaining the state’s expectations for local elections. Under the law, Town Moderators are allowed to postpone deliberative sessions in towns that are considered SB2 towns. According to RSA 40:13, Londonderry is that kind of town since it has separate sessions for deliberations and voting. Moderators can also postpone the business meetings in town “due to weather emergencies,” only if the community had previously adopted RSA 39:2-a (which is a regulation for town meetings). If

a business meeting and town election are scheduled for the same day, the moderator can only postpone the meeting, not the vote.

“The law does not authorize local or state officials to postpone the town elections,” said Gardner and MacDonald in their statement.

Londonderry delayed its elections by a week last year, moving it from March 14 to March 21. That decision was made by Town Moderator Bob Saur and School Moderator Cindi Rice Conley after consulting with Town Manager Kevin Smith, Fire Chief Darren O’Brien, Police Chief Bill Hart and several other town officials. Saur and Conley also consulted with Town Attorney Michael Ramsdell, who told Conley that he did not see any legal challenges to changing the date, according to a story run by the Londonderry Times last year.

Although residents of Londonderry were able to vote in sunnier conditions



Over a foot of snow across the region on Election Day making travel contions to the polls very difficult. Snow was covering election sign by the early going in front of the Londonderry High School. Photo by Chris Paul

last year, they were not allowed the same courtesy this year and are expected to brave future storms like grizzled New Englanders to exercise their right to vote. However, a new bill by state Sen.

Jeff Woodburn of Whitefield could lead to some extreme weather clarification on how towns are to deal with early stages.

Pole Licence

Continued from page 1

so, the town hoped to find a creative way to help minimize the cost for the taxpayers for the project. According to Smith, after a very competitive process, that involved three cell tower companies, the town was able to negotiate a final sales price in a lump sum of \$520,000. This was brought forth as a public hearing, because this revenue is not anticipated in the FY 18 budget. It will be up the Town Council to accept that money. Chairman Tom

Dolan put the issue into context for the public.

The community-wide communications system that will be helping the first responders will be funded in part by this particular sale of the cell tower as well as a withdrawal from the undesignated fund balance. By doing so, (if the voters approve) the town will be able to make the purchase of this new communications system without adding any tax impact to the voter.

The third public hearing that was conducted that night was for the purpose of considering

amending existing pole licenses to include language regarding taxation. The report was given by Assistant Town Manager Lisa Drabik. Londonderry is one of many communities that is party to a lawsuit in which certain utilities, in Londonderry’s case Fairpoint, argue that our pole licenses (as they are currently worded) allow the town to tax their use of poles, but not tax their use of the rights of way on which the poles sit.

At the council’s Feb. 5 meeting, the Town Assessor presented a petition to amend licenses to the council upon the advice

of the town attorney asking the Town Council to hold a public hearing on this issue. The purpose of the public hearing was to clarify the language, so that the town can properly tax the utilities use of both poles and rights of way.

Drabik also announced that plenty of notice was given to both the current license holders and the public.

A detailed notice, including the taxation language that was proposed to the council, was sent on Feb. 13 to the six current pole license holders in the certified mail.

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Conservation Matters: Nature at Your Service

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When people sardonically ask, "What have you done for me lately?" they are implying "If you want something from me, I expect something in return!" Imagine a homeowner having this type of conversation with the stream in his back yard, or a farmer having this conversation with her fields or woodlot. How would the stream or field or forest reply?

All these open spaces do in fact "do something" for us humans. In fact, they do a lot. Rough esti-

mates of the value of nature's services indicate that nature provides us two dollars' worth of goods and services for every dollar we measure in the cash economy: clean air, clean water, protection from floods and storms, food from land and sea, wood, recreation...sunsets.

Some of the water in the backyard stream enters the ground water and supplies drinking water from wells. Some of the water enters a forested wetland where plants take up toxic materials, capture sediment, and slow down storm water. Some of the water is

home to small bugs, which are eaten by fish, which are eaten by the herons that nest in the Musquash, which are viewed by hikers and birdwatchers.

So, streams and fields and forests have value. Because they have value, we care for them: we limit the use of chemicals on the backyard; we maintain vegetated buffers along the stream; and we protect farms and forests with conservation easements and outright purchase, so they go on providing services, rather than being developed and consuming taxpayer-funded services.

Economists and ecologists have labored mightily to put dollar values on all these natural services—those are dollar values they presume humans would be willing to pay, the answer to the question "What have you done for me lately?"

But, perhaps there is another kind of "value" in addition to dollar value. What if the stream or field or forest, or the creatures

big and small that live in those environments, have a value in and of themselves beyond whatever services they provide us humans.

Religious leaders of nearly all faiths remind us that we have an obligation to "care for creation." If so, we are not merely consumers of creation, we are its stewards, and not just because of what creation "has done for us lately,"

but because we care about it in the same way we care about our family.

Others argue that, for humans, "It's all about me," and our obligation is merely to get the most from nature, for the most people, for the longest time that we can. Both ways of thinking lead to much the same place: nature serves us and we protect nature. It's a nice arrangement.

Discussion of Town Splash Pad Heard at Recreation Meeting

LORI COSTA
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Recreation Committee began their meeting this week outlining the budget and the status of the equipment that is in use.

Recreation Director Art Psaledas said that the committee has currently used up 57% of the budget. That is typical at this point of the year, because the fields are still covered for the winter. "Once the fields get uncovered, we'll figure out what we need," Psaledas said. "We're in about the normal position for us." The equipment that is also used under

the Recreation Committee is also in good shape for the upcoming season.

Also discussed was the possibility of Londonderry getting a Splash Pad, a recreational area that has little standing water.

Psaledas has been looking into the possibility of Londonderry building a Splash Pad similar to the one in Derry at the Don Ball Park. The cost of inflation for construction is still not known at this time, but at 2% it would cost \$98,000 and at 4% the cost would be about \$120,000 to construct the park.

There would need to

be a minimum of two people working the Splash Pad, one person to supervise and the other to work concession.

The big problem facing Londonderry right now is the water.

Depending on where the park will go in and what water they use, it could be a monthly cost of \$3,000 to \$4,000 to run the water. There are systems where you can recycle the water, but then you would have to test it, according to Psaledas.

Some communities even set up their own Splash Pads in school parking lots, but the cost of the water is still a factor. Kids and parents alike love going to the various Splash Pads around neighboring communities, but it is still in the early works if Londonderry will choose whether or not to put a Splash Pad in of their own. These numbers are also in the very early stages of development.

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Five Local Teams to Move on to STEAM State Competition

MELISSA BETH RUIZ
LONDONDERRY TIMES

"Kids wind up being put inside a box," said Londonderry Destination Imagination coordinator Christina Baez. "They wind up being tested on a scale where they may not (excel)...this type of program allows for them to utilize other parts of their minds and strengths."

Since 1999, Destination Imagination has been enriching the minds of students from kindergarten through university through creative and engaging collaborative challenges, all focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM).

This past weekend, over 80 New Hampshire teams met at Winnacunnet High School in Hampton to show off their skills in the state's Destination

Imagination's Regional Competition. Of 12 competing teams, five Londonderry teams will be advancing to the State Competition next month, the highest number of teams from the town to advance in two years.

There were a total of 15 teams participating from Londonderry, however, three teams were comprised of "Rising Stars," students in Kindergarten through grade 2. Rising Stars are not scored, and their participation is more for experience and preparation for competition later on, with competing teams separated into grades 3-5, middle school, and high school.

The students were all given technical, scientific, structural, artistic, improvisational, or service-learning based challenges, depending on

their skill and interest. Challenges were open-ended and complex, and were solved by students with no intervention by adults or friends outside of the teams.

For Londonderry, the team focusing on sciences was tasked with creating an "unlikely location," with an amusement park utilizing three scientific theories. For the technical challenge, team members had to navigate a complicated maze and build a device to retrieve something from within the maze. One team was tasked with building a device strong enough to sustain a significant amount of weight being dropped on it. The Arts team had done a good amount of research on various explorers and locations in preparation for an improvisation rou-

tine they had to carry out. For Inside Impact, or community service, team members chose to put out an anti-cyberbullying campaign for the Londonderry Schools.

Destination Imagination competitions allow students to not only hone their STEAM skills through exciting challenges, but their communication, collaboration, and problem-solving skills, as well.

"Overall, I think it gives them more diversity in solving problems and approaching them from different mindsets," said Baez. "(It's) taking into account that everyone's brain works differently, as there are people who are logical...methodical, and you see that mixed in with team members who can create costumes or performances...kids are able

to branch out and use their individual strengths, but also find a level playing field and come together as a team."

Londonderry's Destination Imagination competitions are funded in part by the school district, but at a certain point, said Baez, teams do run into out-of-pocket expenses.

"This program is mostly volunteers," Baez explained. "The future of this program is in volunteers...and as with any program, success lies on financial backing. And as it continues to grow...at some point we will tap out of resources."

Baez said that the Londonderry Destination Imagination teams do hold fundraisers to help alleviate some of the out-of-pocket expenses, a few of which include an

upcoming car wash and calendar sale, with all proceeds to fund the teams' advancement to the state and then global competitions.

The five Londonderry Teams will be competing against other New Hampshire teams for the chance to advance to the Global Finals, where they will have the opportunity to test their skills against teams from all 50 states as well as 15 other countries.

For more information on NH Destination Imagination, visit www.nh-di.org. For more information on upcoming fundraisers or volunteer opportunities, visit www.londonderrydi.org, or visit the Facebook page, Londonderry DI. Christina Baez can be reached with questions at info@londonderrydi.org.

Sonshine Soup Kitchen Preparing for Second Annual Gala Fundraiser

ALEX GUITTARR
LONDONDERRY TIMES

As one of Derry's most prominent soup kitchens, the Sonshine Soup Kitchen has worked tirelessly for close to three decades to provide a hot meal and friendly service for struggling residents five days a week. But services like this are not cheap to keep up and running, which is why the soup kitchen will be holding its second annual Sonshine Soup Kitchen Gala at Birch Wood Vineyards on April 5.

Although the Academy Awards have already come and gone this year, this gala will be themed around the Oscars, com-

plete with a Red Carpet Cocktail Hour at 6 PM, while dinner and festivities will be held at 7 PM.

The event is going to be packed with excitement, from an assortment of local entertainers to a silent raffle and even Town Council Chair Joshua Bourdon serving as the event's MC. On top of that, the night will feature a reverse raffle, wherein up to one hundred and forty nine tickets will be sold and all pulled out at random, with those who have their tickets picked before the final five losing, although losers still have a chance to receive prizes at random.

Attendees are also encouraged to pick a movie theme for their reserved table and dress as actors or characters from said movie.

According to Jean Manley, both a volunteer and the Treasurer for the soup kitchen, the two major challenges that the funds collected will be addressing include the mortgage for their new location on 6 Crystal Avenue and operations for the building, as not

only must they cover the likes of utilities and supplies, but also salaries for the kitchen's four paid staff members.

Manley also prides herself on what the kitchen offers the community. It is not only the food that they serve, but how they serve it that makes the organization so special. Serving dinner at 4:30 PM Monday through Friday, visitors are served the food as if they were guests at a restaurant, instead of simply filling

through a cafeteria line.

Roughly forty to forty five meals are served to around thirty to thirty five people daily and the kitchen is open to anyone, no questions asked, as long as they are not disruptive and come in sober.

Last year's gala

brought in thirty one thousand dollars, but staff are always willing to try and break that record.

"We are hoping to exceed that this year," Manley noted.

For more information, visit sonshinesoupkitchen.org.



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Matthew Thornton Drama Club Celebrate Anniversary with "Annie"

SUBMITTED BY
TIM GORE

Ten years ago, Kathie Gagnon, Meg Gore, and Christine Stapleford founded the Matthew Thornton Drama Club (MTDC) as a fun and entertaining program in which fourth and fifth graders at Matthew Thornton Elementary School could come together to learn about theatre and put on a show.

Gore has been the program's director and producer since it's beginning.

"We started small and grew in size and scope each year," she said. "We have had our challenges, but I am really proud of what MTDC is today. I certainly can't take all of the credit for it. There have been a lot of people over the years that have volunteered many, many, many hours of their time and have contributed to the success and development of this program."

This year, the club celebrates its tenth anniversary with its production of Annie Jr., the story of a spunky and hopeful little red-headed orphan, played by Vanessa MacDonald. She is given an opportunity to spend Christmas with the reserved billionaire, Oliver

Warbucks, played by Mason Turek. Annie happily leaves behind her dismal circumstances at the orphanage, which is run by the cruel Miss Hannigan, played by Leah Kemball-Cook, and is introduced to a life she could never have imagined.

Fifth grader Mason Turek, who did not participate in the drama club last year, is thrilled to be a part of the show.

"I haven't done this before, and it's fun to see what it's like and what you do," he said. "I'm so excited because I'm exploring this new thing, and I've really enjoyed it so far."

Turek acts alongside some of his classmates, including Genevieve Martin, who plays Warbucks's secretary, Grace Farrell. Martin shares Turek's excitement and anticipation for the show.

"The costumes and makeup are fun, but all the acting and being on stage is just thrilling. Last year, when I was on stage, it was amazing," she said. "This year, I'm even more excited than last year."

As elementary schoolers, the children involved with this production typically don't have much experience performing on

stage. But, as Gore said, "What they lack in experience they make up for in enthusiasm."

Gore's daughter, Katy, has worked with the program as choreographer on several productions, including Annie Jr. She is thrilled to be working with this show because she has a personal connection to it.

"Annie is one of the first shows I remember seeing when I was young, and choreographing the show has been a dream of mine ever since," she said.

As director, Gore notes that all of the children have talent, and it is the job of the directors to pull the talent out of them.

"They are much more able than we give them credit for," she said. "I love to see their faces when they realize they can do it." Her daughter agrees, saying, "I always strive to raise the bar higher than they think they can go, and they never fail to rise to the challenge."

Martin has learned a lot from the directors during her two years in the drama club. She is looking



Fourth and fifth grade students have been busy rehearsing for Matthew Thornton Drama Club's production of Annie Jr. It will be the club's tenth year of producing plays. See next page for more photos. Photos by Chris Paul

forward to sharing what she has learned with the audiences.

"People should come see the show because it's the best show that has ever been made here, in my opinion. We have some great people in it, and it's going to be a lot of fun," she said. "It's the best. I love this so much."

For the fifth graders, Annie Jr. will be their last production with the Matthew Thornton Drama Club. After participating in the drama club both last year and this year,

Horan says that this show will be bittersweet for her.

"I am definitely so excited for the show and kind of sad too because this is my last year at Matthew Thornton Drama Club. It's been super fun, and I'm really going to miss it, but this show's going to be awesome," she said. "When the directors say that the kids put the show together, they really do. The directors help a lot, but we are up there, and it's completely our moment to shine."

Annie Jr. opens at the

Matthew Thornton Elementary School on March 16 at 7 p.m.. There will also be performances on March 17 at 12 p.m. and 7 p.m..

Tickets in advance are \$5 for students and \$8 for adults, and tickets at the door are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults. All matinee tickets are \$5. They are on sale in the Matthew Thornton School lobby from 3:30 to 4 p.m. and 5:30 to 6 p.m. on March 13, 14, and 15, and at the door 30 minutes prior to show time.

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Annie – Vanessa MacDonald
Oliver Warbucks – Mason Turek
Grace Farrell – Genevieve Martin
Miss Hannigan – Leah Kemball-Cook
Rooster Hannigan – Joey Holden
Lily St. Regis – Olivia McCartney
Orphans are:

Duffy – Maddie Tufts
Jury – Meara Horan
Kate – Morgan Laczynski
Molly – Elyza Comtois
Pepper – Meg Carroll
Tessie – Eva Sesin
Bundles McCloskey – Jack Smith
Apple Seller – Elizabeth Sosa

Flower Seller – Alex Furlong
Dog – Sophie Fontenot
Lt. – Josh Conty
Usherette – Ali Von Pichl
Mother – Gabby Pedrick
Child #1 – Drew Sherman
Child #2 – McKenna Duffy
Sound Effects Person 1 Lillianna Cawthron
Sound Effects Person 2 Kire Thomas
Boylan Sister #1 Ava Brown
Boylan Sister #2 Ellis Currier
Boylan Sister #3 Allie Woods
Bert Healy Ryan DiBurro
President Franklin Delano Roo-

sevelt (FDR) Ryan DiBurro
Louis Howe Keegan Russell
Sandy Regan Burns

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Kids Coop Theatre performed *Madagascar, A Musical Adventure, Jr.* at the Derry Opera House over the weekend. The dance musical was Directed is Ruthie Vinson with Director Mentor, Maureen Mansfield, Musical Director was Heidi Krantz and Music Director Mentor Marilyn Olbricht. The production's Choreographer was Paige Athanasiou. The performance starred Ryan Carrigan as Marty, Byrn Steinmetz as Alex, Kaylee Gifford as Gloria, and Michael Wimmer as Melman. Cast members also included Benjamin Bertini as Private, Kalisan Marzolf as Rico, Rowan Gifford, Thomas Hull, Audrey Labbe, Megan Lautieri, Savannah Marisseau, Skylar Marzolf, Kristin Minzner, Braeden Tremain, Kira Withrow and many more. *Photos by Chris Paul*

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LONDONDERRY SPORTS

LHS Boys' Basketball Gets Upset by Green Wave in Tourney Prelims

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

When the Londonderry High boys' basketball squad lost by 36 points to the Dover High Green Wave on the seacoast back on Feb. 20, it's likely that despite that lopsided outcome nobody could have guessed what the outcome might be if the Lancers and the Green Wave played a rematch in the Division I tournament.

Well, those two squads met up in D-I preliminary-round tourney play at LHS Thursday night, March 8, with the sixth-seeded

Londonderry crew aiming to advance by beating the 11th-ranked Dover side while also proving that their Feb. 20 debacle was a case of the Lancers getting themselves settled into a new lineup after senior guard Cole Britting was lost to a knee injury.

Britting didn't play again during the regular season, which Londonderry ended with a 12-6 record with consecutive victories over Keene, Manchester Memorial, and Nashua North. But that successes left the Lancers feeling as though they could still be a

power in the tourney, even without their guard.

However, the LHS crew's involvement in the Division I post-season consisted of just one game, with that being a frustrating and rather disappointing 62-58 upset loss to a Green Wave squad which trailed by a point with 1:01 left in the contest but made some big free-throws count en route to the win.

Accuracy at the charity stripe ended up being huge in this contest, with the host Lancers hitting just four of the 12 they attempted in the contest and Dover netting nine of the dozen they attempted during just that pivotal, final 1:01 of the game. The Green Wave sank 11 of their 16 freebies.

"I felt like we were in control of the game for 31 minutes and then lost focus in the most critical minute of the game," lamented LHS coach Nate Stanton. "There are a lot of life lessons learned through the game of basketball, and my hope as a coach is that we take this experience and learn from it for the future."

Londonderry trailed 11-9 after one quarter, but the hosts outscored their guests by a 19-14 tally in quarter two to carry a small, 28-25 advantage to halftime. And the Lancers' lead stood at a decent but still modest 42-38 rolling into stanza number four.

"With a minute left,

Ethan May went for a steal and picked up his fifth foul when we were up by one point," said Stanton. "Unfortunately, the emotions get the best of him in that split second and he picked up a technical. They then hit four foul-shots, with two for the foul and two for the technical, and then they got the ball. Dover scored 11 points in the last minute."

The Green Wave would then grasp the lead the rest of the way despite several successful three-point shots attempts by Londonderry, and the Lancers had to face the fact that their uniforms would be going into mothballs while the upstart Dover group moved on to a quarterfinal-round game with third-ranked Bedford.

"I have been putting a huge emphasis on being focused and disciplined, but unfortunately we missed a few lay-ups and went 4-12 from the foul line, which did not put us in the position to win the game," said coach Stanton.

Dover was led by



Shane McNamara glides in for a bucket during his Londonderry High boys' basketball squad's tough, season-ending tournament loss to the Dover Green Wave at LHS. Photos by Chris Paul

game-high scorer and senior guard Devin Cady, who drew the key May foul and hit some big free-throws down the stretch on the way to 25 points. Londonderry got 20 from Dakota Bertrand and 13 from

Shane McNamara. Those two stalwarts combined for all six of the Lancers' three-point buckets.

The LHS contingent began dealing with challenges even before the

Continued on page 14



Poised sophomore standout Jack Anderson was consistently the LHS boys' basketball squad's leading scorer this winter. But he was held under 10 points in the tourney loss to Dover.

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LHS Spirit Squad Snares Third in D-I at State Championships

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

There was drama surrounding the Division I place finishes at the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association State Spirit Championships at Pinkerton Academy this past Sunday, March 11. But for the Londonderry High Lady Lancers, the drama didn't really creep in until after the D-I champs and runners-up had been named.

Coach Chelsie Murfitt's LHS squad placed third in the tough division at that event with a somewhat-flawed but extremely spirited performance which earned the Lancers



The performance wasn't perfect, but the LHS spirit squad still had plenty of reasons to be pleased with its effort and its third-place finish at the D-I championships at Pinkerton this past Sunday. Photos by Chris Paul

a final score of 98.2. The defending state champion Pinkerton Astros - who were seeking their ninth

consecutive winter title - were somewhat stunned by falling short of that goal and finishing second

with a 102.4, while the Concord Crimson Tide bagged the D-I crown with its score of 104.4.

Londonderry's post-event drama came into being when coach Murfitt and her charges learned that they'd need to wait a bit to see if they'd qualify for the New England Championships at Southern New Hampshire University this weekend. Point tallies were slated to determine which Granite State squad would be the third to advance along with Concord and Pinkerton.

Be that as it was, Murfitt and her assistants were largely pleased with the work their squad did in front of a loud, standing-room-only crowd in Pinkerton's Hackler Gym. Those environs and circumstances have been known to unnerve even the most confident athletes and contingents.

"They increased their energy from past performances," said the coach. "It



wasn't perfect, but hopefully we'll get another chance to improve on it at New Englands."

Murfitt's Londonderry High fall spirit squad managed an incredible feat late last year when it ended the Pinkerton fall team's seven-year run of state titles by edging that entity by a tiny, 103-102.6 margin.

While the margin of victory for Concord in ending Pinkerton's huge winter streak of crowns this past Sunday was a tad larger, just about nobody in the Hackler Gym clearly saw it coming.

"We didn't know who the winner was going to be before it was an-

nounced," said Murfitt. "I think all of the Division I teams had issues today except Concord. Their routine was the cleanest."

The Londonderry squad included seniors Cassandra Stuart, Hannah Martin, Jessica Brien, Katherine Host, Kathryn Hempfield, Kaylie Longua, Meghan Evangelista, and Sara Berte. The juniors were Katelyn Leger and Sarah Duarte, while the sophomores included Arianna Squeglia, Ava MacEachern, Brianna Meskell, Megan McHugh, and Samantha McCarthy, and the freshmen were Alana Mobbs, Lillian Tharrington, Nikki Longua, and Reyanna Broadhurst.

Lancer Shot-Putter Hagearty Competes at New Englands



LHS field events star Patrick Hagearty bagged a top-25 finish at the New Englands in Boston recently.

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry High School shot-putter Patrick Hagearty has proven himself to be one of the top competitors in that event in the Granite State. But of course, any athlete wants to know how they'd stand up among a wider field of athletes.

That curiosity was one factor which led the LHS star into the 31st New England Interscholastic Indoor Track and Field Championships at the Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center in Boston on Saturday, March 3 with

a real head of steam.

Hagearty, who finished a superb second in the shot - behind only Pinkerton Academy senior stalwart and state champion Kaleal Cerafici - with an effort of 46 feet, 6 1/2 inches at the D-I championships at Dartmouth College weeks earlier, finished in the top 25 at the New England event.

The Lancer junior put the shot some 46 feet, 3 1/2 inches to finish 22nd overall at the regionals. Cerafici finished three spots behind him, 26th overall, that day with an effort of 43' 6 3/4".

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Ex-Lady Lancer Athletes Balcom and McKivergan Excel at Grove City

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Anybody who has read these Londonderry Times sports pages over the last half-dozen years has seen the names Kate Balcom and Madison McKivergan many dozens of times.

And folks who witnessed the impressive exploits of the 2016 Londonderry High graduates in their respective sports - Balcom in both basketball and track and McKivergan in multiple running sports - will have no trouble believing that

both young women enjoyed excellent sophomore seasons this winter on squads at Grove City College in Grove City, Pa.

After having an excellent freshman season on the women's basketball team at Grove City last winter, sophomore forward Balcom excelled in big ways again this winter in helping her hoop contingent to an 18-win season and a seeding in the Eastern College Athletic Conference Division III Championship Tournament.

In the opening round

of that tourney recently, Balcom was once again a true stalwart in the Lady Wolverines' 73-62 loss to Lebanon Valley which ended the Grove City side's strong campaign with an 18-10 final record.

Those 18 victories were the most claimed by a Grove City women's hoop contingent since way back in the winter of 1982-83, when Grove City finished at 22-5.

In the tournament battle, former Lady Lancer Balcom led her team with a wildly-impressive double-double of 22 points and 11 rebounds.

The 5-foot-6 math major, who was a five-

time President's Athletic Conference Rookie of the Week as a freshman, finished up in the top three in many categories for coach Chelle Fuss' 2017-18 Grove City squad.

She was tops on the team in steals (88), second in field goals made (136), field goal percentage (.464), points (350), and points per game average (12.5), and third where minutes played per game (26.9), rebounding (151 total and 5.4 per contest), and blocked shots (13) were concerned.

The ex-LHS star, who played on several Division I state title-winning teams as a Lady Lancer,

played in all 28 of the Grove City team's games and started every one.

Her fellow former Londonderry High track and field star and 2016 grad McKivergan was one of nine Grove City indoor track and field stalwarts who qualified for and competed at the recent ECAC Division III Championships at The Armory in New York City.

McKivergan was one quarter of the Grove City women's distance medley relay team which advanced to the big meet, and she and teammates Tabitha White, Elizabeth Donahoe, and Heidi Hoffman excelled there in fin-

ishing an extremely strong fifth overall.

That talented distance medley relay quartet recorded a season-low time of 12 minutes and 59.05 seconds in qualifying. And at the championships, sophomore mechanical engineering major McKivergan and her teammates ran a 13:18.04 in bagging fifth.

LHS grad McKivergan excelled in middle-distances and jumps for the Grove City women while also making significant contributions to that relay quartet during the just-completed 2017-18 season. She was a consistent stalwart at LHS.

Athletes of the Week

Week of March 5



**Kathryn Hempfield,
Senior, Spirit**

This dedicated 12th grader is an asset to her Lady Lancers' team and a strong performer. She is a reliable teammate whose diverse stunting abilities allowed the squad to execute at competitions.



**Shane McNamara,
Senior, Boys' Basketball**

This hard-working veteran was his team's X-Factor and was simply huge for the Lancers during their playoff game against Dover, scoring 13 points and pulling down six rebounds.

Student Athletes Supplied by Athletic Department

Cody Ball and Hawks Felled in Syracuse

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Former Londonderry High basketball star Cody Ball and his Saint Anselm College basketball squad had their 2017-18 season come to an end in somewhat rocky fashion with a pair of losses in the NCAA Division II Eastern Regional Men's Basketball Tournament on the campus of LeMoyne College in Syracuse, N.Y. last weekend.

Junior standout Ball, who netted his 1,000th career point in the Hawks' New England-10 Conference championship game loss to Lemoyne prior to the NCAA tourney, and

his teammates were bested by the teams from The College of Saint Rose of Albany, N.Y. on Saturday the 10th and then the Saint Thomas Aquinas contingent from Sparkill, N.Y. the next day.

In the Saturday battle, the former LHS star cager scored eight points and yanked down six rebounds in an 83-71 loss. Ball saw 36 minutes of playing time in that contest.

The next day, the former Lancer led his Hawks with 17 points - going a perfect 6-for-6 from the free-throw line - in a 91-72 loss to the Saint Thomas contingent. Ball also

dished out three assists and pulled down two boards in 38 minutes of court-time.

The Hawks finished up with an excellent 22-9 overall record, tallying 20 or more wins for the fifth time in the last six years.

Biology major Ball, who led the Londonderry Lancers to the first state title in program history in undefeated fashion as a high school senior during the winter of 2014-15, finished his junior hoop campaign having started all 31 of his college team's

games.

Ball averaged 32.2 minutes per game, shot for a 48.6 percent average from the field, averaged 14.7 points per contest, notched an average of 4.8 rebounds per game, and dealt out an average of 1.7 assists per contest. The shooting wizard hit nearly 45 percent of the three-pointers he attempted for longtime coach Keith Dickson's Hawks. The ex-Londonderry Lancer was a Third-Team All-New England-10 pick this winter as well.



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Standout LHS Skier Competes Among Some of the Best Around

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry High School junior skiing standout Bryeton

Evarts capped off her strong 2017-18 competitive season in truly noteworthy fashion last weekend by competing in the

36th Annual Eastern High School Alpine Championships on Cannon Mountain in Franconia.

The Lady Lancer was one of 24 Granite State high school skiers and some 250 total athletes from across the Eastern United States and beyond to participate in that major event held last Thursday through Sunday, March 8-11.

Skiers from as far west as Wisconsin and as far south as North Carolina took part in the 2018 event, which has been held in New Hampshire over the last several years. It has also been held in other states in past years, including Vermont.

The 2018 event was hosted by the Franconia Ski Club at Cannon Mountain's Mittersill Ski Area, and it once again allowed high school teams representing all states within the eastern region as well as other regional guest teams to compete.

Evarts and her 23 New Hampshire teammates - who hail from a total of 19 Granite State schools -

were selected for the Eastern Championships following the state's Meets of Champions early this month.

Evarts had qualified for the MOC's with some strong work at the Division I championships at Gunstock Mountain in

mid-February. She helped her Lady Lancers to a strong fifth place finish by winding up second overall individually.

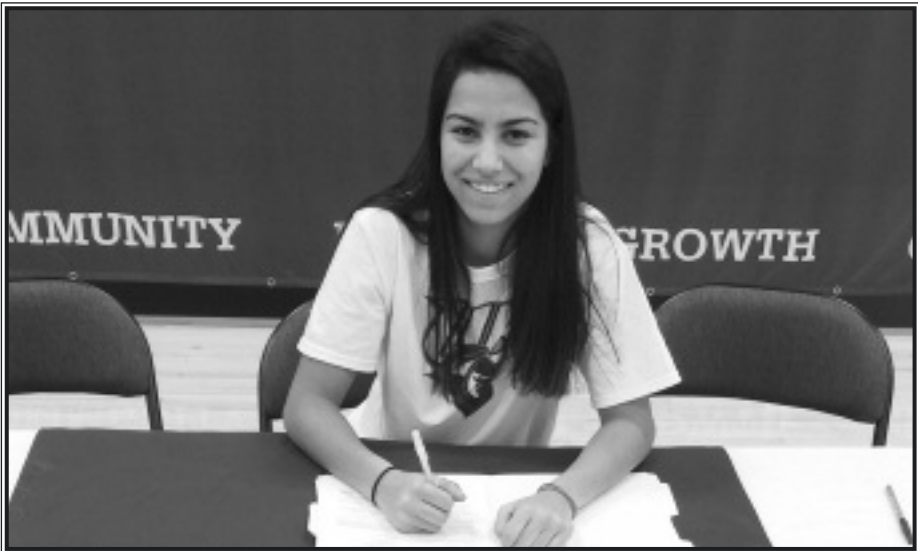
At the MOC's, Evarts wound up a fine 10th overall out of some 54 competitors, placing a superb sixth in the giant

slalom and 14th in the slalom.

Granite State squads have won championships at the annual event in the past, but over the last several years the contingents from Vermont have come out on top and ruled the slopes.



Londonderry High School skiing standout Bryeton Evarts earned the huge honor of competing at the Eastern Regionals at Cannon Mountain last week. Courtesy photo



Brit Booter to Bridgeport

Anisha Hill, a Woking, England native whose host family is the Brenner clan from Londonderry, recently signed her letter of intent to play collegiate women's soccer at the University of Bridgeport (Ct.). Hill completed her prep soccer career at Worcester (Mass.) Academy this past fall by coming close to the school record for goals in a single season. The star booter potted 19 goals for her squad. Her fellow Worcester Academy senior and host family member Graham Brenner - also a soccer stalwart at the Massachusetts school - recently signed his letter of intent to attend U-Mass Amherst.

Courtesy photo

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Boys Hoops

Continued from page 11

2017-18 season began when junior standout Ethan Garofalo was lost to knee and ankle injuries. But the squad showed a skill and intestinal fortitude in having a season that, in quite a few ways, was highly productive.

"The team has been through a lot of adversity

this season, and I'm proud of how resilient they were. And being able to go 12-6 with all that went on is something to be proud of," said the LHS coach. "Just a few weeks ago we lost to Dover 81-45, and I'm proud of how my guys responded and fought hard to put us in a position to win. This is certainly a tough way to finish such an exciting and remarkable season,

but I thank the seniors for all of their hard work, dedication, and for stepping up to the different challenges they faced throughout their careers. And I know they will all be successful with whatever they put their minds to."

Dover then went on to beat the number three seed, Bedford 45-43, on Saturday March 10, to advance to the semifinals.

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Tennessee Man Fighting For NH Highway Safety After Tragedy

MELISSA BETH RUIZ
LONDONDERRY TIMES

“A guardrail is, first and foremost, a safety barrier intended to shield a motorist who has left the roadway,” reads the US Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration’s informational page on the device. It goes on to describe the function and crashworthiness of the guardrail, overall ranking it a successful means of protecting drivers and passengers.

Many might agree that guardrails are helpful implements insofar as they prevent drivers and their vehicles from careening off of the road should they find themselves in a collision, or slip on black ice. However, many may not be aware that they can also do more harm than good.

Tennessee native Steve Eimers, however, is painfully aware.

In November of 2016, Eimers’s daughter, Hannah Eimers, was on her way to school driving her father’s car on I-75 in McMinn County, TN when her father’s car went off the road and into a guardrail. Rather than deflecting the vehicle, the end of the guardrail impaled it from the front, hitting Hannah in her head and chest, killing her instantly.

The guard rail in question was a Lindsay X-Lite end terminal system, designed to absorb the impact of a vehicle and redirect it from going off of the highway. According to the Lindsay Corporation’s website, this specific terminal’s design, “results in significant savings in inventory, repair, and maintenance costs.”

Hannah was the oldest of ten children, and a high school graduate at the age of 15, attending Pellissippi State Community College at the age of many high school freshmen. According to her father, Hannah was as selfless as she was brilliant.

“She gave up a lot,”

Eimers said tearfully, explaining that she had played a huge part in the adoption of three of her brothers from Ukraine and two other brothers and two sisters from the opioid epidemic.

“She gave up a lot so they could be in our family...” Eimers reiterated.

Through countless interviews from small town newspapers to Capital Hill, Eimers has been fiercely advocating for changes to be made in the highway systems. Not only in his own state, but all the way up to New Hampshire.

“I am not very happy with the New Hampshire governor, attorney general, or department of transportation,” Eimers stated.

Keith Cota, the NHDOT’s Project Manager and Chairman of Roadside Safety at AASHTO, has also advocated for the removal of external units on the devices.

“My recommendation would be to seek replacement for X-Lite terminals on Teir I and II roadways having posted speed of 45 mph or higher,” Cota has said.

New Hampshire currently has 111 X-Lite systems in place, according to an X-Lite Use Survey of States, which further mentions that there has been no in-service assessment to the system in the state.

President Trump has been quoted expressing

his concerns regarding the devices, saying, “I always think if I ever went into that sucker I’d be afraid that it opens and you get speared.”

In January, Eimers had written a letter to President Trump listing crashes that he had reason to believe involved the X-Lite guard rails, and in his letter he asked the President to rescind the X-Lite’s federal reimbursement eligibility letters.

According to recent reports, the Lindsay Corporation maintains that its “inability to singly prevent every tragedy does not indicate a flaw or defect.”

In June of 2017, a Massachusetts woman named Julie Melendez was also killed after losing control of her vehicle and crashing into a guardrail near exit 5 in Londonderry. Melendez was ejected from the vehicle, and another passenger, Karina Feliz, was injured. A child who was also in the vehicle was later flown by helicopter to Boston Children’s Hospital for severe, but stable injuries.

The tragic incident in June is just one of many involving deaths and serious injuries by guardrails. At least 12 other states have pulled the hazardous units from the ground as a result of similar tragedies, but New Hampshire has yet to follow suit.

When asked to

arrange an interview regarding the removal process of X-Lites in NH, questions were re-directed to Bill Boynton, NHDOT Public Information Officer, to be answered in writing. Boynton responded, “The NHDOT has already acted by adopting the recently approved and more stringent criteria MASH (Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware) standards for guardrail terminals. Existing hardware will be addressed with future projects.”

The most recent publication of the MASH, according to its summary, “encourages consistency in testing and evaluation of roadside safety features.” It goes on to say that it also includes updated test documentation requirements.

Eimers, however, would not agree that more testing is an adequate measure in solving the problem.

“In the state of Tennessee, they used Hannah as the last piece of data,” Eimers said. “...they think they’re going to use another resident as data? They have their data, it’s time to act.”

Eimers mentioned that the cost to remove the guardrails in New Hampshire would come to an estimated \$333,000, however, after federal reimbursement, the cost could be cut down to as low as about \$67,000.

“That’s pathetic in a state that will spend \$67,000 on crazy stuff,” Eimers said.

When asked what he wanted New Hampshire residents to know most about the tragic incident involving his daughter, he recounted the story of her youngest adopted brother. He explained that Hannah had a friend who had gotten pregnant while in high school, and she was helping her to seek out adopted parents for the baby. Just a week and a half before the accident, Hannah urged her parents to offer to take in the unborn child. Hannah convinced her mother and father to help her friend in need, and in March, Nick, the brother she would never meet,

was born. Eimers said that he hopes that someday Hannah’s legacy will extend beyond the accident, and that she will be remembered for her advocacy for little children like her brother, Nick.

“I’m so sick of the guardrail being her legacy,” Eimers lamented. “But I know because of her death there will be hundreds of people who will have a life...because she gave hers.”

For more information regarding New Hampshire’s Highway Maintenance, visit www.nh.gov/dot/org/operations/highwaymaintenance/ and click “Contact Us” for a full list of phone numbers and email addresses by NHDOT department.

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TOWN OF LONDONDERRY ZONING BOARD

March 21, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.

Moose Hill Council Chambers, 268B Mammoth Rd

- I. Draft minutes to approve: February 2018
- II. Report by Town Council liaison (if any): n/a
- III. Public hearing of cases:

A. **CASE NO. 3/21/18-1:** Request for two variances: (1) from LZO 2.2 to allow a commercial use as an automobile parking lot for Auto Auction of New England which is otherwise prohibited in the AR-1 zone; and (2) from LZO 2.3.1.2(A) to allow for the storage 1094 of unregistered cars where only one is allowed, 105 Hillside Avenue, Map 10 Lot 92, Zoned AR-1, Windham Realty Limited Liability Company (Owner & Applicant)

B. **CASE NO. 3/21/18-2:** Request for a variance from LZO 3.11.6.D.3.b.i to allow three wall signs totaling 250 SF where only 50 SF are allowed, 42 Nashua Road, Map 7 Lot 68-01, Zoned C-I, NH Six Realty Trust (Owner & Applicant)

- IV. Communications and miscellaneous:
- V. Other business

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AROUND TOWN

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

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

Elijah's Table

Elijah's Table, a joint project of Etz Hayim Synagogue and the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. We will be serving a free community dinner on March 18, from 5 - 6:15 p.m., at the Etz Hayim Synagogue at 1-1/2 Hood Road in Derry. The atmosphere is informal and friendly, warm and toasty. Meet up with old friends, make new friends, and have a great meal. For more information on free meals in the Derry area, please go to freemealsinderry.blogspot.com

Addiction Support Group

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

Free Meals

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

Karaoke Night

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

St. Paddy's Day Party

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

VA Bingo

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

Blood Drive

Due to the recent severe storms there is an URGENT need for blood and blood products. With the current "Urgent" need for blood products, the American Red Cross needs all of our help to replenish the blood supplies. The Community Service Committee of Saint Jude Parish has scheduled this blood drive for Friday March 23, from 1 - 7 p.m. at the Londonderry Lions Hall 256 Mammoth Rd. in Londonderry. This is a new drive for us and we really need your help...Donors of ALL blood types are urgently needed to donate. In an effort to save you time, you can register online www.redcrossblood.org or by calling the Red Cross 1-800-RED-CROSS (We encourage ALL donors to make an appointment to help us in planning). You can also use the RapidPass system the day of the drive to save time the day of your donation as well. For more information on donating blood, you may call the American Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS or for more information on this drive please contact Vinny Curro vincurro@comcast.net or 603-867-7472. Of course we will have homemade refreshments that our Saint Jude drives are known

for...Thank you and we hope to see you there!

Basket Ball Tryouts

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

Model Railroading

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

Greater Manchester Lyme Disease Support Group

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

Leach Library Hours

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

Small Space for Growing Fruit

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

room. Light refreshments will be served.

Dragon Tales with Taco Dragon

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

Looking Good for Lou Gehrig!

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

Londonderry Republican Committee

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

Continuing Education Program

Programs are open to the public at no charge, except as otherwise indicated. Donations to the Etz

Hayim Synagogue will allow us to continue to offer these and other programs, and are gratefully accepted. Thurs. Nights, at 7 p.m. Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1 1/2 Hood Road, Derry. For more information, please contact: Stephen Soreff, MD, at soreffs15@aol.com or 603 895-6120.

Lamplighters

A womans group with the goal of helping less fortunate woman and people in NH meets every 4th Thursday of the month 7 p.m. at Londonderry Presbyterian Church at 128 Pillsbury Road, Londonderry. If you have any questions please call 781-866-9976.

Walk with Me

Are you losing or have lost someone? A child, a parent, a sibling or a friend? It can be a painful journey but you don't have to walk it alone anymore. Just come "Walk With Me". Meetings are the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m., at the Londonderry Presbyterian Church, 128 Pillsbury Road, Londonderry. If you have any questions please call 781-866-9976.

LEEP Applications

Are you considering preschool for your child? If your child turned 3 by September 1st and is a Londonderry resident, consider enrolling your child in the Londonderry Early Education Program (LEEP) preschool program. We are a developmentally appropriate preschool that is respectful of the talents and needs of individual children. Our teachers are all certified educators and the program is provided by the Londonderry School District. Programs for three-year old preschoolers meet from 8:45 - 11 a.m. either 2 or 4 days per week and our program for our prekindergarten students meet from 12 - 2:30 p.m. either 3 or 4 days per week. How do I apply? Applications are available online on the Moose Hill School website. We also have our LEEP Handbook available online on the Moose Hill School website if you'd like additional information on the program. For more information, contact Kathy Kelley at 437-5855 ext. 7223 Please email Kathy Kelley at kkelly@londonderry.org or Kim

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Londonderry Police Log

Selections from the Londonderry Police Logs

Monday - March 5

11:19 a.m. Suspicious activity investigated on Fieldstone Drive.

12:09 p.m. Assisted Londonderry Fire Dept. with transportation to hospital from Lincoln Drive.

1:22 p.m. Services rendered after complaint at Moose Hill School on Pillsbury Road.

3:25 p.m. Drug Offenses investigated Old Nashua Road.

4:33 p.m. Shoplifting investigated at N.H. Liquor Store on Rockingham Road.

5:09 p.m. Suspicious activity investigated on Bridle Path at Wallace Farm Apartments.

6:49 p.m. Suspicious activity investigated at TD Bank on Nashua Road.

10:06 p.m. Motor vehicle accident investigated on Nashua Road at High Range Road.

Tuesday - March 6

10:03 a.m. Three officers served Warrant and make Arrest at Londonderry High School. Thomas Lindner, 18, of Derry Charged with Two counts of Theft; From a Motor Vehicle, Criminal Mischief (vandalism), Disorderly Conduct and Attempt To Commit Theft From Vehicle.

12:17 p.m. Motor vehicle stop results in arrest on Rockingham Road at Page Road. Joseph Ricci, 23, of Manchester charged with Following Too Closely, Driving After Revocation Or Suspension, Suspended Registration (operating-misd) and Misuse Or Failure To Display Plates.

1:09 p.m. Motor vehicle accident investigated on Ash Street.

3:42 p.m. Suspicious activity investigated on Tinkham Lane.

4:17 p.m. Report of missing person investigated on Whittemore Road.

5:13 p.m. Suspicious activity investigated West Road.

7:33 p.m. Peace restored after disturbance on Rockingham Road at RMZ Truck Stop.

Wednesday - March 7

10:13 a.m. Services rendered for suspicious activity on Maplewood Drive.

2:29 p.m. Report of missing person investigated on Beech Hill Drive.

4:23 p.m. Three officers assist Londonderry Fire Dept. on Gilcreast Road at Holy Cross Cemetery.

5:16 p.m. Burglary investigated on Sugarplum Lane.

5:34 p.m. Motor vehicle accident investigated on Forest Street.

5:45 p.m. Motor vehicle accident investigated on Wiley Hill Road.

6:13 p.m. Services rendered at motor vehicle accident on Pillsbury Road at Hardy Road.

7:32 p.m. Motor vehicle accident investigated on Kimball Road.

7:43 p.m. Services rendered at motor vehicle accident on Rockingham Road and Mammoth Road

8:02 p.m. Services rendered at motor vehicle accident on Webster Lane at Grenier Field Road.

8:15 p.m. Services rendered at motor vehicle accident on Mammoth Road at Pine Street.

8:15 p.m. Services rendered at motor vehicle accident on Mammoth Road at Londonderry Middle School.

10:45 p.m. Services Rendered Wires Down Action: on Adams Rd.

10:57 p.m. Wires Down Investigated on Woodcrest Dr

11:11 p.m. Wires Down Action: Services Rendered on Chase Rd

11:15 p.m. Report of Wires Down on Westwood Drive at Woodcrest Drive.

11:18 p.m. Services Rendered at Disabled Motor vehicle on Cote Lane.

11:54 p.m. Services Rendered for Wires Down on Rockingham Road and Rmz Truck Stop

Thursday - March 8

1:13 a.m. Services rendered at motor vehicle accident on Pillsbury Road at High Range Road.

1:36 a.m. Services rendered for downed wires on Pleasant Drive.

2:31 a.m. Services rendered at motor vehicle accident on Windsor Blvd. at White Plains Avenue.

3:04 a.m. Animal Control services rendered on Mammoth Road at Nashua Road.

5:02 a.m. Motor vehicle accident investigated on South Road at Timber Street.

6:43 a.m. Services rendered for downed wires on Chase Road.

7:35 a.m. Services rendered for downed wires on Mercury Drive.

7:36 a.m. Three motor vehicle involved in accident on Rockingham Road between Stonehenge Road and Derry line.

8:37 a.m. Motor vehicle accident investigated on Nashua Road at Young Road.

9:32 a.m. Five officers investigate a Sudden Death on Fieldstone Drive.

9:36 a.m. Domestic Disturbance Action: Investigated on Hunter Blvd

9:45 a.m. Services Rendered Investigating Neighborhood Disputes on Mountain Home Road.

9:52 a.m. Services rendered for downed wires on Devonshire Lane.

1:04 p.m. Services rendered for downed wires on Ross Drive.

7:20 p.m. Motor vehicle accident investigated on Rockingham Road at Dunkin Donuts.

Friday - March 9

9:43 a.m. Motor vehicle accident investigated on Nashua Road at Home Depot.

10:04 a.m. Services rendered for Traffic Control on Litchfield Road.

11:31 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Investigated Garden Lane and Market Basket #42

11:58 a.m. Services rendered at neighborhood disputes on Chase Road.

12:46 p.m. Motor vehicle accident investigated on Litchfield Road at High Range Road.

Lions Club Donates and Celebrate Members 90th Birthday



During the Londonderry Lions meeting on Monday evening members were visited by Londonderry Police Detective Ryan Buker and Child Advocacy Center of New Hampshire Program Director Jillian Burns. The two were there to receive a \$500 donation from the Lions. While there they shared with members how the local police utilize the Centers help with children's needs. The night also marked long-time member Bob Steenson's 90th birthday. Lions Club Secretary, Beth Ferreira helped Bob cut the cake. *Photos by Chris Paul*



School Pranks Get Staff Involved In Fund Raising

The North Elementary School PTA has devised a new fund raising effort. They have created a list of ten "Pranks" that staff members will be doing if certain levels are achieved. The first tier was hit earlier in the month with school principal Paul Dutton riding a tricycle around the school. Last week the second tier was hit with music teacher Nancy LaPorte dressing up as a clown and seeing students off for dismissal. Other "Pranks" include, Pie in the Face, Cow Kissing and Getting Slimed.

Photo by Chris Paul

Police Log

Continued from page 18

3:53 p.m. Motor vehicle accident investigated on Rockingham Road at Page Road.

5:24 p.m. Motor vehicle accident investigated on Garden Lane.

5:28 p.m. Motor vehicle accident investigated on Wyndmere Drive.

6:39 p.m. Three officers

respond to motor vehicle accident involving three cars on Mammoth Road at Litchfield Road

Saturday - March 10

12:01 a.m. Neighborhood disputes investigated on Scots Place.

12:28 a.m. Motor vehicle accident investigated on Old Derry Road near Manchester line.

10:36 a.m. Services ren-

dered in keeping the peace on Midridge Circle.

11:53 a.m. Motor vehicle accident investigated on Nashua Road at Burger King.

1:53 p.m. Response to disturbance results in arrest made on White Plains Avenue.

2:02 p.m. Three motor vehicle accident investigated by three officers on Rockingham Road at

Auburn Road.

2:23 p.m. Report of missing person investigated on Winding Pond Road.

3:11 p.m. Services rendered at motor vehicle accident at McDonald's on Nashua Road.

5:35 p.m. Report of missing person investigated on Litchfield Road.

9:08 p.m. Peace restored after Domestic Disturbance on South Road.

Sunday - March 11

1:13 a.m. Assisted Londonderry Fire Dept. at Red Arrow Diner on Rockingham Road.

4:52 p.m. Services rendered for suspicious activity Sadie's Way.

5:28 p.m. Motor vehicle stop on Nashua Road near Derry line results in arrest. Michael Porreca,

25, of Derry charged with Driving after Revocation or Suspension of licence,

Suspended Registration (operating-misd), Drivers License Prohibitions and Motor Vehicle Inspection Violations.

5:37 p.m. Services rendered in keeping the peace on Mammoth Road.

6:10 p.m. Assisted Londonderry Fire Dept. with transportation to hospital on Bartley Hill Road.

7:17 p.m. Criminal Threatening investigated on Litchfield Road.

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