

Londonderry Times

January 22, 2015 ♦ Volume 16 – Issue 4

A FREE Weekly Publication



Winter Beach Day

Moose Hill Kindergarten students Devin O'Brian and Lilly Lynch enjoy a day at the beach during the annual Beach Day on Friday, Jan. 16. Both sessions enjoyed activities that gave them warm thoughts on a cold day. See more photos on page 6.

Photo by Chris Paul

Adult Education Graduates Urged to 'Dream Big'

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry High School Adult Education graduates celebrated the journey by which they earned their high school diplomas, as well as the bright futures that lie ahead.

"Being in the moment

right here reminds me that the hard work and dedication that we have put into graduating has finally paid off. Four years later, and we are walking proud to be the men and women we have grown to be," said Ashley DiBenedetto, a student speaker

at the high school's Jan. 13 Adult Education graduation celebration.

DiBenedetto reminded her fellow graduates that although it may be frightening to leave the place they have called home for the past four years, they are prepared for whatever

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Budget, Articles to Warrant; Firefighter Hiring Debated

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Town Council voted 5-0 to move the proposed \$28.3 million operating budget to the Town warrant and voted 4-1 to support Article 3, the Town's operating budget.

Article 3 would result in a tax rate impact of \$4.80 per thousand.

Councilor Joe Green did not find the budget favorable, having proposed the Council remove \$106,000 built-in overtime from the Fire Department's budget, which became part of the default

budget when the Council voted to add the amount to last year's budget. He cast the "no" vote against supporting the article.

Ultimately, the Council did not remove the \$106,000 from the proposed FY16 budget. The Council did remove \$5,100 from the Information Technology (IT) budget for replacing computers and added \$6,500 to the Town Manager's budget to investigate potential solutions to traffic issues during elections.

"I spoke with several people in the last election who faced traffic outside

the high school and decided not to vote because it was too oppressive trying to negotiate that traffic, and they didn't have the time to wait around," Chairman Tom Dolan said. "I don't know if we need an alternative polling location or something else, but I'd like the Town Manager to look into it."

The Council also discussed removing funding for the finance director's position, which was vacated when Sue Hickey resigned recently.

Smith recommended the funds remain intact to

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School Warrant Articles Receive Board Approval

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The School Board voted to support and move to Deliberative Session the Superintendent's proposed budget, despite calls for the board to restore teaching assistant hours.

"I spoke with teachers and instructional assistants who said that loss will be tremendous to students of the District," Donna Traynham of 11 Faucher Road said. "If it's a \$150,000 cut, can't we sustain it?"

The \$67.5 million operating budget, Article 2, which represents a \$12.59 impact per thousand on the tax rate, saw a reduction of 49.5 hours of daily instructional assistant hours to address declining enrollment and down-

shifted costs from the State.

Superintendent Nate Greenberg said the District has been able to reduce the ratio of certified teachers to students because they have made a conscious effort to maintain certified staff. In moving forward with the new model, schools will conduct initial screenings of students when they enter first grade, identifying at-risk students.

"What indicators from the pilot suggest this will provide better outcomes than what we have with instructional assistants in the elementary schools? If the pilot is better, what does the rollout look like?" Traynham asked the Board and administration at the Thursday, Jan. 15 meeting. "If it doesn't

lead to better outcomes, I would suggest we're not ready to eliminate instructional assistants. The research is unequivocally clear; if children are not proficient by elementary school, they are less likely to be ready for high school, or to graduate, or to be ready for the rigors of college."

"We will be offering summer school to reinforce skills, and offering an extended day for students having difficulties.

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Smith Proposes Cutting 362 Acres of Airport Area TIF

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Town Manager Kevin Smith advised the Town Council to amend the Airport Area Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District, decreasing its size and scope.

"The original thought when you adopted this resolution was you didn't know when development would get going on Pettengill Road, so you captured it all to make future infrastructure proposals," Smith said. "Development started shortly after the TIF was adopted and I want

to propose making a few changes to the TIF this year, amending the actual size of the area, getting rid of the whole right side of Pettengill."

In addition to recommending a 362-acre reduction of the TIF, with all land incremental tax value to go back to regular valuation, Smith proposed amending the resolution to mandate its termination when the Town meets its obligation to pay for the \$250,000 cost of a new traffic light on Pettengill Road.

If the Council adopts the amendment, the Town will

see \$71,000 in additional property tax money returned to the regular valuation in 2015 to offset the tax rate.

With \$114,000 already having come in from the TIF, Smith expects well over the \$250,000 required for the traffic light will come in next year.

The Council agreed to hold a first reading for the amendment at a subsequent meeting.

"I think we should bring them back and we may adopt them," Chairman Tom Dolan said, adding he thinks it's important to

remind people that the purpose of the TIF District was to accelerate development of the Pettengill Road area. "There has been some argument amongst several taxpayers about why we should engage in the TIF - why not just let development happen over serendipity? Maybe it's true development would have come, but it may not have been the development we wanted."

Dolan said he heard talk of cul-de-sac developments in the area that would have severely limited other development, and that without the TIF, the Town would

have delayed much of the tax revenue that could come earlier in the process.

"By doing the TIF and committing to the traffic light, that enabled the town manager and the town officials to negotiate and accelerate the development," he said. "If we generate \$1 million worth of tax revenue each year, if it didn't happen for another four years, we would lose \$4 million waiting for it to happen. We tried to accelerate those tax revenues in to the town coffers and hopefully with that revenue reduce the

burden on the taxpayers. I'm happy with the success of what's happened."

In other business Monday night:

• The Town Council approved an expenditure of \$2,382 from the Expendable Maintenance Trust Fund for winter maintenance and repairs.

The allocation will fund shoveling, plowing and treatments to parking lots and walkways at Town Hall, the library, the cable access studio and the Senior Center, as well as repairs to a heating unit at Town Hall.

Council Plans Hearing on Amendment for Committee Appointments

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Town Council voted 5-0 to approve the first reading Monday night of an amendment to the Town ordinance related to Committees, Boards and Commissions, intended to ensure the process of appointing members is fair and transparent.

Changes to the ordinance include a section that requires the chairperson of each board, commission or committee to notify the executive assistant to the town manager of vacancies or pending term expirations;

and the requirement that the Town publish in one local paper and two other public places all vacancies at least three months before a term expires or a seat becomes vacant.

Additionally, a section was added requiring appointments be posted when terms expire, even if a member already on the board seeks re-appointment. The chairperson of each board, commission or committee may make recommendations of membership to the Town Council, but the process for reviewing applications for and interviewing

candidates is at the discretion of the Council.

Having completed the first reading at the Jan. 19 meeting, the Council will hold a public hearing on the changes to the ordinance at its next meeting before voting on adopting the amendment.

In other business:

• The Town Council approved with a 5-0 vote an expenditure of \$34,801 from the Capital Reserve Fund for Fire Department equipment.

The allocation will fund firefighter protective equipment at a cost of \$21,302, three Automated External

Defibrillator units at a cost of \$8,461, and a multi-purpose rescue device and accessories at a cost of \$5,037.

"This is to purchase the protective clothing our firefighters wear, which is on a five-year cycle," Fire Chief Darren O'Brien told the Council, noting their old gear are used as backup sets.

"The research and quotes for the equipment were extensive. They did a great job and we recognize the work that's gone into it," Councilor Joe Green said of the department's proposal.

• The Council appointed with a 5-0 vote Margaret Har-

rington to the Conservation Commission.

Harrington, who has lived in Londonderry for 23 years, graduated from college with a degree in Conservation Biology and hopes to gain more experience and serve her community as the Commission's newest and youngest member.

"I have attended Musquash Field Day whenever I have been able to and I have helped monitor the Town's conservation easements and enjoy using them often. I'm hoping to help with the sustainable use of open space in town and to help

preserve more open space," said Harrington, whose father, Eugene Harrington, is Vice Chairman of the Commission.

"It's very healthy for us as a community, especially a small town like this that administers itself on the backs of a volunteer workforce, to have you be a part of it," Council Chairman Tom Dolan said. "It encourages others of your generation to come forward."

Town Manager Kevin Smith said the Town did not receive any other applications during the two weeks the position was posted.

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Musquash Target Shooting Task Force Begins Work

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Town's Musquash task force defined its mission and set goals at its first meeting last week.

"Our charge from the Town Council is to study target shooting on conservation land in town and make recommendations to the Council regarding what changes, if any, should be made to the current ordinances," Chairman Bill Hart, the Town's police chief, said, adding that the Town doesn't have any ordinances governing target shooting.

"There are laws on the books that all gun laws are regulated by the State," member Dan Watson said, noting those laws may create limitations on the Town's ability to specifically regulate target shooting.

Additionally, most legal statutes don't distinguish between target shooting and hunting.

"A bullet leaving a gun is a bullet leaving a gun," Watson said.

"Hunting is excluded from our charge and I'm in agreement with that," said member Mike Considine, who is representing the Conservation Commission. There are neighboring towns that have banned target shooting, specifically in conservation areas.

Hart recommended the task force consult with Town Attorney Mike Ramsdell to determine what, if anything, the Town could

enforce through its ordinance.

Member Bob Saur, who is representing Londonderry Trailways, recommended the group also look into whether or not there has been any litigation of town-generated ordinances at the state level to help identify what limitations there are.

"Whether we create ordinances or not, it will come down to being an enforcement issue because you can ban all kinds of target shooting on town-owned conservation land, but it's still going to happen and it's still going to boil down to an enforcement issue," member Dana Coons said.

In a presentation on target shooting on town-owned conservation land, specifically in the Musquash Conservation Area, Considine described an alarming pattern of behavior among target shooters who visit the property.

"They're firing into berms, I see bullets in trees, and bullet holes through trees in the direction of neighborhoods," he said. "Bullets are leaving the Musquash and flying up and down paths. There is uncontrolled, unsafe target shooting."

The Musquash, a 1,000-acre property with 15 miles of trails surrounded by open space to the south and west, is a prime hunting area, according to Considine.

"The trail is used by hikers, bikers and dog

walkers. It's crowded by recreational use on the weekends," he said. "In the past there weren't any target shooters, but now there are quite a few."

People are shooting into trees with no cover only 900 feet from residents on Red Fern Circle, and bullets have been found in trees within close proximity to neighbors' homes. A group of high school students were shooting a machine gun into a shallow berm and bullets were slipping out of the berm and leaving the Musquash, according to Considine.

"People are walking down Landing Trail towards the parking lot, stopping and shooting semi-automatic guns, shooting into the pond,

walking down the trail, shooting into trees. How can that be safe?" he asked.

"As a responsible target shooter, this stuff irritates me," Watson said. "You can take the largest caliber weapon and make it the safest, and you can take the smallest caliber weapon and make it unsafe. It's not the firearm, it's the user. Lack of back-drop, shooting at trees and an unskilled shooter all make guns unsafe. It's not about the weapon or proximity, it's about proper use of firearms. People are doing stupid things."

"I'm totally against unsafe firearm use," said Coons, who is representing the Londonderry Fish and Game Club. "What you have shown is defi-

nately unsafe use. The bottom line is there are a few making it bad for the many. People doing this need to be trained. They need to understand what they have in their hands and the ramifications of what happens if you don't know where that bullet's going."

The group agreed to produce for the next meeting a map of what conservation areas in town would be affected by recommendations they make to the Council; a compendium of statutes and ordinances that might affect some aspects of their recommendations; research on what other towns have done to address conflicts with state RSAs when putting in their own target shoot-

ing ordinances; and any answers they are able to obtain from Ramsdell related to the question of what authority the Town has to act and what risks of litigation may be associated with actions they wish to take.

"I think this is relatively urgent," Hart said, noting the group's report to the Council is due on April 1. "I think everyone knows this is an issue the Town has wrestled with for some time. Let's do something. Let's give them something to chew on."

The task force will meet again on Jan. 28, with subsequent meetings to follow on Wednesdays, every two weeks, at 6 p.m. in the Moose Hill Council Room.

Council OKs Re-Zoning Mammoth Road Parcel for Storage Facility

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Town Council approved with a 5-0 vote re-zoning from Commercial-I to Commercial-II a 1.5-acre parcel at 484 Mammoth Road for the future construction of a self-storage facility.

The intent of the rezoning is to consolidate the parcel with two abutting lots zoned C-II to create a single 5.7-acre parcel of commercial land for the development.

Conceptual plans for the storage facility, which the Planning Board considered at its Dec. 2 meeting, feature four free-standing, single-story, self-storage buildings. The total space those buildings would occupy is approximately 58,900 square feet, according to Steven Keach of Keach-Nordstrom Associates Inc., an engineering services company in Bedford.

A conservation overlay easement on the prop-

erty would remain undisturbed.

Each building would feature unheated and climate controlled storage units, with nothing to be stored outside the storage units on the property. The units would not be used to store cars, boats, trailers or campers.

No members of the public spoke against or in favor of re-zoning the parcels during the Council's Jan. 19 public hear-

ing. Keach told members of the Planning Board that abutters had been contacted and no one had expressed disapproval with their proposal.

Town Planner Cynthia May told the Council that planning staff recommends rezoning the parcel as it's consistent with the intent of zoning in that area and re-zoning the lot would create a more regularly shaped zoning district.

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Editorial

Here's Your Chance

Deliberative sessions are the times specifically set aside under the SB2 form of government to discuss and potentially change warrant articles. Residents don't vote on whether or not to approve the warrant article at deliberative session – they vote instead to send the article to the warrant, and on Election Day, they vote the warrant article up or down.

But at these sessions, voters can amend most warrant articles, so long as they do not change the subject matter.

Depending on who's in the audience, school budgets, for example, can be amended up or down before they go to the March ballot. That's why you often hear the fear expressed that some group will "pack" the deliberative session and "force" their views on everyone else.

There's no force. It's up to the registered voters who show up. If the turnout is poor and few people are present to promote or defend their views, the majority of those in the room will have their way.

To participate, all you need do is to register to vote, attend deliberative, pay attention as the moderator explains the rules, read the proposed warrant articles, listen to public comment, and vote on any

changes or send the article as is to the warrant.

The articles on the warrant hit you where you live, and as New Hampshire residents, we have the right to express our views in a forum specifically designed for that purpose, and to change articles if we have the votes.

Voters are clearly in the seat of power. That's why it's so important not only to attend, but to stay for the whole session. In some towns, that means about two hours. In other towns, it can take a whole day. In the grand scheme of things, it's not such a time-consuming commitment to make.

Plan to attend, and play a role in one of the most participatory forms of democracy alive today. We can wave the flag and claim to be patriotic all we want; if we really believe in democracy, the deliberative session is the place to be.

And if you want to play an even more active role, Friday, Jan. 30, is the final day to file for elected school district or town office. Consider throwing your hat in the ring.

For your calendar: Londonderry School Deliberative is 7 p.m. Feb. 6, and the Town Deliberative is 9 a.m. Feb. 7.

Letters

Town Turns Back on Seniors

To the editor:

Politics is one place I tend to avoid, but my checkbook tells me it's time to state my "senior citizen" opinion. I have been a resident of Londonderry for nearly 31 years, and I am a widow. I have been retired from teaching for eight years. I need to know why there is no low-income housing for senior citizens in Londonderry.

We build trails, we build beautiful public buildings, and we are always finding new ways to spend the taxpayer's dollars. Now, it's a new auditorium. I don't know if we need it or if it is a "want" - not a need. Can people like myself, senior citizens – afford it? No!

The best part about it is even if it's voted down, we'll get it. There always seems to be a loophole our political leaders find to get what they want.

Ignoring the senior citizens like myself turns my stomach. Seniors are losing their homes to a town that doesn't seem to care. I am sad because I have put my heart and soul into the town of Londonderry. Now, the town seems to be turning its back on the needs of us old timers.

Joan L. Chmielorz
Londonderry

Legislator's Report

To the editor:

As your newest representative, I'm pleased to report I've been given my first choice and was placed on the Science, Technology and Energy (STE) Committee. Along with Represent-

tative Bob Introne (STE chairman), Londonderry is fortunate to have two members on this dynamic committee. We have over 65 bills coming to committee and many will address our energy needs.

My first assignment was to schedule numerous orientation briefings for the STE members. We heard from many state, business, and local advocate organizations dealing with energy, telecommunications, public utilities, and related groups. These briefings will be helpful as we progress from bill to bill.

I'm looking forward to working with the committee and to address any concerns from our Londonderry residents. Constituent feedback is very important and I hope to hear from you.

Recently, I visited the Londonderry Fire Department and was given an excellent tour by Lieutenant James "Bo" Butler. Also, I attended the Business and Government Reception 2015 of the Greater Derry Londonderry Chamber of Commerce and met several business, education, and healthcare representatives. This was an excellent event to hear about their issues and to get to better know our local establishments.

I'm pleased to be a co-sponsor on a few bills. One, introduced by Senator Carson, will help a Londonderry business compete with larger industries, so I was more than glad to hop on a bill that could directly affect one of our own. Another bill would facilitate the flow of motorcyclists and bicyclists across traffic light intersections.

Once again, I'm looking forward to represent-

ing Londonderry and to have the opportunity to interact with our community on issues that affect our area. I invite anyone to review the House Calendar at: <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/caljourns/default.htm> to see the public hearing schedule for upcoming bills and to reach out to me at: doug.thomasnh@gmail.com if you have questions or concerns.

State Rep. Doug
Thomas
R-Londonderry

Offense by Obama

To the editor:

On Jan. 11, 2015, 40 leaders from various countries and 1.3 million people participated in anti-terrorism events in Paris. President Obama was AWOL, and he was only represented by our ambassador to France.

It is difficult to believe our President overlooked the need to be in Paris for the anti-terrorism rally. Based on his previous comments it is quite possible he decided he did not want to offend Islam by appearing at the anti-terrorism unity march.

In the past he has refused to label the multitude of attacks conducted by Muslims as Islamic terrorist attacks. He said, "we are not at war with Islam" but it sure appears Islam is at war with us. After all, what is the religion of almost every terrorist who has attacked Western civilization in the past 50 years?

President Obama, you just offended every freedom-loving person in the world.

Donald A. Moskowitz
Londonderry

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Chamber's Lunch and Learn Series Highlights Identity Theft

PENNY WILLIAMS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

With the message that identity theft is not preventable, Nancy Montville of Legal Shield spoke to the Greater Derry Londonderry Chamber Lunch and Learn program.

The Tuesday, Jan. 13 event featured Montville telling the group that identity theft is the fastest grow-

ing crime, while the best defense is being proactive and having preventive measures in place because "defensive is expensive."

Montville said the Federal Trade Commission notes that in 2013 there were 16.6 million identity theft victims, with one occurring every 3 seconds. One in four people are affected by data breaches or phishing, hackings, or careless dis-

posal of documents containing personal information. She said 900 data breaches have been reported in New Hampshire since 2007, with 185 of those in 2013.

Credit cards, medical information, business or professional licenses, Social Security, tax refunds, driver's licenses, and social media are all subject to identity theft, as is Mosaic Identity Theft,

where an individual uses one person's name, a second person's birth date, a third person's Social Security number and a fourth person's medical information to create a new person affecting each of the four.

She also noted that with identity theft, the victim is considered guilty until proven innocent and can involve a lengthy, difficult and expensive process. Montville added that

organized crime is involved with identity theft because they make more money on this than they can with drug trafficking.

Montville told her audience to take responsibility for protecting their personal information by getting comprehensive coverage for monitoring, legal services and restoration assistance.

Montville also introduced Marieliz Moore of

Business Cents, which provides document management archiving services, and Michael Ebbett, president of First Choice Networks, which provides tech support plans for businesses.

This Lunch and Learn session was the first in a new series of programs sponsored by the Chamber that will take place the second Tuesday of each month.

School Warrant

Continued from page 1

We will deploy staff appropriately to address skill and competency issues, and we are very comfortable with the model, as are the principals of the elementary schools," Greenberg said. "This was a joint decision after conversations with administrators at the elementary level and we believe this is a comprehensive model. That's not to say our instructional assistants have not provided an important service over time."

Bat Lisa Chase of 18 Devonshire Lane, who has worked in the School District for periods of time over the last nine years, said "what the teachers have to do is incredible."

Chase expressed concern that students won't get the individual attention they need, raising the question of how students whose parents work late will be able to access the help they need if their parents aren't able to pick

them up from the after-school program.

"I'm concerned about kids getting the instruction they need," she said.

Other parents expressed concern that the day will be too long for the younger children in need of enrichment, and that children who are gifted will get bored and fall through the cracks if they don't have aides in the classroom to help them move on when the class is working at a slower pace.

Asked why the District can't absorb the money for teaching assistants in the classroom, Greenberg explained the importance of right-sizing staff when enrollment declines.

Additionally, Greenberg noted the District is confident staff numbers are appropriate to accommodate an unexpected increase in enrollment in the middle of the school year.

"As we have responded to declines in enrollment by right-sizing staff appropriately, we hope that when new

residential development in town leads to an increase in enrollment, the Town would support our efforts to right-size again and add staff members where needed," he told the Board and members of the public.

Also moved to deliberative session and supported with unanimous approval by the Board were Article 1, Election of Officers; Article 3, the teachers' contract for \$1.1 million, with a tax impact of \$.32 per thousand; Article 4, the Allied Health Professionals contract for \$85,321, with a tax impact of \$.02 per thousand; Article 5, a special meeting should either the teachers' or health professionals' contract fail; Article 6, the School Lunch Program and Federal Fund Projects, with no tax impact, as the funds are self-supporting through local, state and federal revenue sources; Article 7, the School Buildings Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund for \$400,000, with a tax impact of \$.11 per thousand; Article 8, the Equip-

ment Capital Reserve Fund for \$100,000, with no impact to the tax rate; Article 9, the Community Auditorium and Engineering Costs for \$500,000, with a tax impact of \$.14 per thousand; and Article 10, Co-curricular and Athletic Stipends for \$8,069, with a tax impact of \$.002 per thousand.

The Articles were passed and supported with little discussion from the public or the board, with the exception of the teachers' contract.

Budget Committee member Dana Coons asked why teachers will get a 4 percent raise in the second year of the contract when many people in the Town have not seen a raise of that sort, and many seniors are living on fixed incomes.

Member John Laferriere explained that 72 percent of the staff have a

Master's Degree or higher, and 62 percent have over 11 years of experience teaching in the District.

And despite the fact that several other neighboring communities offer their teachers higher pay, including Bedford, Concord and Manchester, Londonderry teachers stay in the District.

"We're trying to be competitive - we took a look at what the salary schedules would be next year, compared with what they have this year," Greenberg said.

"You get what you pay for," member Dan Lekas said. "We're talking about the children here. There are many years I may not have gotten a raise, but I never made my children go without because of it. And how many people didn't get a raise and stayed with their employer when there were 16

other places they could go get more money? If you pay too little you will get inferior product and the kids will get an inferior education, and a gentleman like yourself who wants to sell your home and downsize will find no one wants to buy the three-bedroom home with the crappy school system."

Lekas additionally noted that if the public were to vote against the teachers' contract, they would have to bring forward another contract and hold another election, which would cost money.

In moving forward the School Lunch Program, Article 6, members of the Board noted the District is in the process of researching alternatives to the federal lunch program.

Deliberative Session will be held Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. in the Londonderry High School Cafeteria.

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Moose Hill Spends a Day at the Beach



Moose Hill Kindergarten scoffed at the cold weather last week and held its annual Beach Day, with both morning and afternoon students enjoying some “fun in the sun.” Above left and clockwise, Hannah Wheatley uses a magnifying glass to check out a variety of seashells; Natalia Cintron and Leah Nickerson try on hula dance outfits; Kindergarten students enjoy playing in some “sea foam;” Alex Fontaine shows off his Hula Hoop skills; and Linette Pomaes scoots under the limbo stick.

Photos by Chris Paul

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Spelling Bee Ends in a Bit of Deja Vu



In what seemed like a repeat performance of last year's Spelling Bee it took two days of competition and over 30 rounds to decide on the Londonderry Middle School representative to the state Spelling Bee next month. Seventh grade student Timmy Gore, above left, eventually beat classmate Luke Pascarelli. Eighteen students competed in the finals. *Photos by Chris Paul*

Rand Paul Makes Campaign Stop in Londonderry

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Kentucky, stopped in Londonderry for a visit to the Fish and Game Club during a visit to New Hampshire last week.

Although Paul has not announced a 2016 presidential run, his Jan. 14 visit to the club had the feel of a campaign stop. Club members and reporters packed the tiny clubhouse to hear the senator talk about Second Amendment rights and answer questions. The Londonderry Times had contacted the club in advance to verify that it was invited to attend.

Before the senator took the podium, however, Club President Rick Olson asked all members of the press to wait out-

side the clubhouse in the cold while the members "took care of official business."

When reporters were permitted to return inside after about 45 minutes, the event was over, but members of the press were invited to take photos and speak with attendees.

Members who heard the senator speak said they found his positions on Second Amendment issues to align with their own and considered him receptive to their concerns.

Member Kim Morin, who is also founder of the Women's Defense League of New Hampshire, said she asked Paul to explain to fellow Republicans and representatives in the Senate that Second Amendment issues are

women's rights issues.

"We need to flip the narrative," said Morin, who thinks Paul agreed with her position.

Rep. Al Baldasaro, R-Londonderry expressed concern with cuts to funding for veterans resources and raised the issue of restrictions on crossing state lines with a personal, concealed handgun.

Paul said he didn't support veterans' cuts and was receptive to the idea of a federal ID law, according to Baldasaro.

"I asked the senator about issuing a federal identification that would allow law-abiding citizens to exercise their right to carry a weapon," he said.

The senator told the crowd he believes there's no place in the U.S. that should have a gun ban,



U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, left, made a stop at the Londonderry Fish and Game Club last week for a brief talk and question and answer session with members. President Rick Olson is shown with Paul. Photo by Chris Paul

according to State Rep. John Potucek, R-Derry.

"We believe he might be with us on universal background checks and

he unequivocally doesn't support a limit on magazine capacity," Olson said.

The Londonderry Fish and Game Club states it has about 1,350 members. It draws members from throughout the State, with a little over 300 on the waiting list to get it.

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Bus Stop Petition Fails to Gain School Board Support

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The School Board unanimously approved moving a citizen's petition related to bus stop locations and procedures to the Deliberative Session, but voted 5-0 against supporting it.

The Fletcher citizen's petition, Article 11, Transportation Costs, would require the District to raise \$451,552 and if passed would have a \$.13 per thousand impact on the tax rate, according to district officials.

"It would create clarity in an area where there is none, it creates safety for the most vulnerable members of our town, and it creates fairness because it wouldn't allow some people to get picked up at their house and others not to," said Susan Fletcher of 13 Darrow Way, who drafted the citizen petition.

Fletcher and her husband, David, petitioned the School Board last year to move their child's bus stop from the top of their cul-de-sac closer to their home due to safety concerns they have with the intersection.

The Fletchers appealed the School Board's decision that the stop was safe to the New Hampshire Department of Education, which ultimately sided with the School Board.

Members of the Board chose not to speak publicly about the warrant article, particularly because Fletcher was not at the Jan. 15 public hearing to answer questions they may have had or to rebut any of their comments.

The dollar amount proposed for the warrant article was calculated by Business Administrator Peter Curro, who said the District would have to

purchase eight additional buses, as well as software to implement the policy.

"Maybe software is the answer. With the buses, it's not a capacity issue because those buses are half-full - it's a timing issue," said Fletcher. "I asked Peter Curro for further information about how he came up with that amount, but he hasn't given me anything yet."

The petition, which is only related to the busing of elementary school students, calls for the School Board to adopt a student transportation policy that includes policies and procedures for school bus stop locations and procedures for determining hazardous roadways, taking into consideration distance and locating stops at the driveway of the youngest student within the .25-mile walking distance.

"Students tend to for-

get about pedestrian safety, making a driveway the safest location for pick-up and discharge," the petition says. "Visibility of the bus stop location to an elementary school student's home will be a factor in determining the most appropriate stop."

"At the elementary school level, the biggest issue is there's no written policy for where the bus stop will be," Fletcher said. "Some bus drivers won't let kids off the bus if a parent isn't there. A friend of mine told me last week her son was 15 to 20 minutes late because the bus waited for a child who gets dropped

off outside his house. His parents weren't outside and they usually wait at the stop for him. It puts a lot of extra responsibility on the bus drivers, parents and administrators because no one knows what the rules are."

Additionally, Fletcher said she would like to see bus stops planned objectively and fairly according to a set policy.

"Safe' is subjective because without sidewalks and proper snow removal, no stop is safe, in my opinion," she said. "I don't think elementary school kids should have to stand in the middle of the road regardless of

where their school is."

Fletcher said she was disappointed to learn of the high cost associated with her petition, but she didn't have time to probe more deeply due to time constraints on filing.

"Maybe the fact that people signed it and it's on the warrant will alert the School Board they need a policy and that's their responsibility as the governing body," Fletcher said. "It may not be the policy as presented, but a policy that's safe, objective and fair is what people want. It's good for administrators, bus drivers and parents."

Londonderry Police Remind Residents to Lock Cars

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Police Department has seen an increase in reports of cars being entered and rummaged through.

"Nothing has been reported stolen. The cars aren't being broken into, the reports are of people opening up doors that weren't locked," Det. Chris Olson said.

Most of the reports are

from people whose cars were entered on Pillsbury Road, in the area of Moose Hill School.

On Jan. 14, a caller on Holton Circle reported her vehicle had been rummaged through on Jan. 13 sometime after 11 p.m. and requested additional patrols in the area.

That same day, two additional callers on Columbia Drive and Currier Drive reported someone

had gone through their vehicles the previous night. In both cases, nothing had been taken.

The department generally sees instances each year where a number of unlocked cars are entered. Last year the department saw 29 cars entered in one instance.

Police recommend residents always lock their car doors when parked outside.

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- PROVIDER ON CALL - FOOD ALLERGIES

Food allergy is an immune system reaction that occurs soon after eating a certain food. Even a tiny amount of the allergy-causing food can trigger signs and symptoms such as digestive problems, hives or swollen airways. In some people, a food allergy can cause severe symptoms or even a life-threatening reaction known as anaphylaxis. Food allergy affects an estimated 6 to 8 percent of children under age 3, and about 4 percent of adults. While there's no cure, some children outgrow their food allergy as they get older.

It's easy to confuse a food allergy with a much more common reaction known as food intolerance. While bothersome, food intolerance is a less serious condition that does not involve the immune system. For some people, an allergic reaction to a particular food may be uncomfortable but not severe. For other people, an allergic food reaction can be frightening and even life-threatening.

In a true food allergy, your immune system mistakenly identifies a specific food or a substance in food as a harmful substance. Your immune system triggers cells to release antibodies known as immunoglobulin E (IgE) antibodies to fight the culprit food or food substance (the allergen). The next time you eat even the smallest amount of that food, the IgE antibodies sense it and signal your immune system to release a chemical called histamine, as well as other chemicals, into your bloodstream. These chemicals cause a range of allergic signs and symptoms.

Food allergy symptoms usually develop within a few minutes to an hour after eating the offending food. The most common food allergy symptoms include a tingling in the mouth; hives, itching or eczema; swelling of the lips, face, tongue and throat, or other parts of the body; wheezing, nasal congestion or trouble breathing; abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting or dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting.

In some people, a food allergy can trigger a severe allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. This can cause life-threatening symptoms, including constriction and tight-

ening of airways; a swollen throat or a lump in your throat that makes it difficult to breathe; shock, with a severe drop in blood pressure; rapid pulse or dizziness, lightheadedness or loss of consciousness. Emergency treatment is critical for anaphylaxis. Untreated, anaphylaxis can cause a coma or death.

See a doctor or allergist if you have food allergy symptoms shortly after eating. If possible, see your doctor when the allergic reaction is occurring. This will help your doctor make a diagnosis.

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Hancock Resident Offers Alternative to Proposed Gas Pipeline

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Although plans for the proposed Kinder Morgan natural gas pipeline were only recently presented to the Town Council, opponents

to the project have organized and are urging residents to take action.

"The thing people don't understand is that this process is way down the railroad track," said Patrick Leary of Hancock,

who is proposing an alternate route to Kinder Morgan's preferred route, which crosses into New Hampshire from Massachusetts, cutting through 17 communities, including Londonderry, before crossing back over the state line in Pelham.

Leary, who has 40 years of experience as a systems engineer in communications, argues that New England's need for more gas is a symptom of its need for electricity. He thinks the best solution to the electricity shortage south of New Hampshire is located on Tennessee Gas's existing route, just west of the Connecticut River in Massachusetts.

"Nothing is going to stop the pipeline, so I thought, 'how do we minimize it?'" he said.

Leary proposes terminating the pipeline near the Connecticut River, ending the pipeline route shortly before it enters New Hampshire, and installing an electricity-generation complex.

If a large enough plant were installed, it would add the required amount of electricity as a "base load power plant," which would increase the reliability of the New England grid, according to Leary.

"We have a gas shortage in the winter because

there's an electricity shortage in Massachusetts. If there were not an electricity shortage, there would not be a gas shortage," he said. "We haven't found anyone who likes the pipeline. In general, no one likes this thing."

"A 36-inch gas line is a massive volume - it's tremendous," Ray Breslin of 3 Gary Drive said. "It's not here for New Hampshire. They just want to pass it through to get it to the coast. It offers no advantage to Londonderry and it's questionable what value it has to the state."

Leary said when he started considering potential solutions to concerns surrounding the pipeline, he wanted to make it as short as possible. He thinks the reason someone hasn't already brought forward a proposal like his own is because electricity-generating companies are waiting for the gas pipeline to be situated before offering proposals.

"Gas and electricity don't mix. These people don't talk to each other," he said. "They are divorced from each other at that level."

If Leary's proposal were considered a viable option, it would keep the pipeline from entering

New Hampshire.

In Londonderry, a 400-foot "study corridor" has been established, which is comprised of 39 landowners whose properties could potentially be affected by construction. The corridor Kinder Morgan is considering for the pipeline enters Londonderry at the Litchfield town line near Morway Drive, running along the Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) power lines, across the West Road Fields, and heading southeast past Elwood Orchards into Hudson.

About five properties in the study corridor belong to the Town, with most of the properties being residential, according to Jim Hartman, Kinder Morgan's right-of-way agent.

Property owners inside the study corridor were notified by letter and Kinder Morgan representatives planned to meet with all property owners in person.

Hartman said representatives planned to begin seeking survey per-

mission from property owners by the end of the month.

Town officials in Londonderry say they haven't heard concerns from residents regarding the pipeline, noting the project was only recently presented to the community.

Conservation Commissioner Mike Speltz said his primary concern is that the pipeline would pass through wetlands, but added that it's still early to take a position on the project.

Town Manager Kevin Smith agreed, saying the Town continues to gather information about the project.

State Senator Sharon Carson, R-Londonderry noted the Town will host a "listening session" for the Northeast Energy Direct Project and encourages residents to attend and gather information.

The Northeast Energy Direct Open House is scheduled for Feb. 18 at 6 p.m. in the Londonderry High School gymnasium.

OBITUARY

Charles Case

Charles W. Case, 79 of Londonderry, died Jan. 17, 2015 at his residence, surrounded by his family.

He was born Feb. 9, 1935 in Unity, a son of the late Raymond and Emma (Sheldon) Case. He was raised in Auburn, and had been a resident of Londonderry for the past 57 years.

Mr. Case was a heavy equipment operator and worked many years for Rodgers Brothers Builders. He then owned and operated C&M Enterprises of Londonderry.

He enjoyed auto mechanics and loved working in his garage with his sons and grandsons. He also enjoyed stock car racing during the '50s and '60s at Hudson, Groveland and Lee Speedways. He enjoyed the outdoors, fishing, clamming, boating and camping. Mr. Case was an avid snowmobiler, and was a former president in his local club, the Hudson Snomen, as well of the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association and a Northeast Chapter Chairman. He was also a member of the elite "Iron Dogs" snowmobile club.

Mr. Case enjoyed traveling in his motor home, where he and his wife of 61 years, Mary Jane, visited all 48 contiguous states and 10 Canadian provinces.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Jane (Ivon) Case of Londonderry; four children, Michael Case of Haverhill, Mass., Gerald Case and his wife, Kathy, Thomas Case and his wife, Linda and Debra (Case) Donovan, all of Londonderry; 10 grandchildren and their families, Shannon Case of Punta Gorda, Fla., Kevin Donovan of Londonderry, Shawn Case of Goffstown, Kristopher Case of Derry, Kari Fontaine of Bow, and Ashleigh Case, Jeremy Case, Megan Donovan, Travis Case and Alexander Case, all of Londonderry; three siblings and their spouses, Anna and Andrew Messier of Pittsfield, and Harold and Judy Case and Andrew and Margaret Case, all of Londonderry; 15 great-grandchildren; as well as several nieces and nephews and his constant companion, "Burlington." He was predeceased by three brothers, Raymond Jr., William and Frank Case; his sister, Cecile Case, and granddaughter Courtney Case.

Calling hours were Jan. 20 in the Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium, Londonderry. A Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mark's Parish, 2 South Road, Londonderry and concluded with burial at Holy Cross Cemetery of Londonderry. To send a condolence or for more information, visit www.peabodyfuneralhom.com.

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Town Budget

Continued from page 1
be available should the Town find someone to fill the position or to be used to address the needs of the department.

"Nothing has changed in terms of the budget with regard to funding the finance director's position," said Smith, who can't yet confirm whether or not a new finance director would be hired with those funds in the coming year.

In regard to adding additional firefighters with Article 14, a citizen's petition, Green said there's no question the Town needs more firefighters, but that the issue of overtime needs to be addressed.

"I don't want the taxpayer to have to pay for something twice, and that's what I feel like people are doing when we hire additional firefighters without addressing overtime," he said.

The Council voted 4-0-1 to move Article 14, to hire four additional firefighters, to the Town warrant; and 2-2-1 to show favor for the \$400,000 warrant article, which would result in a tax rate impact of \$.11.

Councilor Jim Butler abstained from the vote because a member of his family stood to gain financially from the decision to

hire additional firefighters; and Green and Tom Freda voted against supporting the warrant article.

Resident Tammy Siekmann said she brought the warrant article forward to empower the fire chief and town manager to make assessments and judgments about maintaining the appropriate levels of staffing needed to keep the Town safe and to ensure staffing levels are high enough to serve the Town's growing population.

The Council voted 5-0 to withdraw its own warrant article related to hiring additional firefighters, Article 11, which, if passed, would have required the Town to raise \$393,000 to hire four additional firefighters, as well as to reduce the Fire Department's overtime budget by \$110,000. The warrant article would have resulted in a tax rate impact of \$.08 per thousand.

The citizen's petition to add the four firefighters does not include a reduction of overtime costs - the warrant article is intended to increase daily staffing levels at the Fire Department from nine to 10 firefighters on duty on a 24-hour basis, or as budgetary needs require.

"We should have added firefighters last year. We have fire trucks sitting

overnight because we don't have three firefighters to send the truck out," said Chris Melcher, who previously served on the budget committee, noting it takes time to train firefighters and the Town will need to slowly add firefighters each year to bring staffing up to levels that will accommodate the many commercial and residential developments coming into town.

Green said he would like to see a reorganization of staffing schedules to address staffing issues.

Another Article that raised concern from members of the Council was Article 13, to purchase as a conservation easement a 26.3-acre property on Kimball Road owned by Leah Doyle, who said her only goal is to ensure the property is preserved in its current state.

The property would be purchased for \$395,000 with Conservation Commission funds, which would have no impact on the tax rate.

With the property to decrease in value to around \$118,000 once it's purchased as a conservation easement, Freda called the proposed agreement "an insult to the taxpayers."

Freda said he would favor the Town's purchasing the land outright.

"I have no problem with keeping it open space, but we don't know what the future needs will be. I don't want to lock up a future council, I don't think that's fair," he said, noting he thinks the Conservation Commission should show trust in the taxpayers and future councils.

Conservation Commission Vice-Chair Eugene Harrington explained that the reason the land value decreases when purchased as an easement is that it cannot be developed - "you're essentially buying from the landowner the right to develop the land or sell it to a developer," he said.

"If you want to keep it in open space, fine, don't ask me to pay for it," Freda said, explaining he thinks the land should be purchased outright and leased back to Doyle for a small amount, such as \$1 each year.

Doyle said she's open to alternatives, as her only motive is to ensure she keeps her promise to the previous landowner that the property would remain as it was when she purchased it.

Councilor John Farrell said he supported the Article because Doyle was trying to uphold "a handshake agreement with the previous owner."

The Council unanimously approved passing onto the warrant and supported with favorable votes the following warrant articles:

Article 1, Election of Officers.

Article 2, Expendable Maintenance Trust Fund

for \$100,000 to support repairs and maintenance to town facilities. The article has no tax impact.

Article 4, Fund Special Revenue Account for \$491,523, which would cover Police Outside Details and would have no tax impact.

Article 5, Fund Sewer Fund for \$2.6 million, which would defray the cost of construction, payment of interest on any debt incurred, management, maintenance, operation and repair of constructed sewer systems and would have no impact on the tax rate as they're funded through user fees.

Article 7, Zoning Ordinance Update for \$120,000, which would fund updating and rewriting the Zoning Ordinance in accordance with the recommendations of the Town's recent Zoning Audit and would have no impact on the tax rate.

Article 9, Appropriate Funds to Capital Reserve Funds to Expand Cemeteries, to Replace Highway Heavy Equipment, Fire Equipment and Highway Trucks for \$295,000. The article would have no tax impact and would authorize the Town to use June 30 Fund Balance toward the appropriation.

Article 10, Police Department Personnel Costs for \$105,000 to hire one or more additional full- or part-time police officers to fulfill the functions of school resource officer. The article results in a tax rate impact of \$.03 per thousand.

Article 12, Discontinue Ambulance Capital Re-

serve Fund, which was created in 1996. The funds in the account would be transferred to the Town's General Fund. The article results in no tax rate impact.

Articles 15 through 20 authorize the Town Council to call special meetings on cost items should they fail in the election.

Warrant Articles may be revised by the voters at the Town's Deliberative Session on Feb. 7 at 9 a.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Smith said "a soft-copy" of the 2016 Warrant with any revisions from the public hearings will be posted prominently on the Town's website at www.londonderrynh.org in advance of the Deliberative Session.

The Council left the Jan. 19 public hearing open to further consider Article 8, Establishing a New GIS (Geographic Information System) Capital Reserve for \$28,000, which would fund developing, maintaining, enhancing, or acquiring data, software and/or hardware resources to be used by or integrated with the Town's GIS program and would appoint the Council as agents to expend the funds.

It may be necessary to split the article, which would have no tax impact, into two separate votes.

The Council continued their public hearing on the 2016 Warrant to Jan. 22.

Smith said in total, the 2016 Warrant as of Jan. 20 represents a tax rate of \$.17 per thousand.

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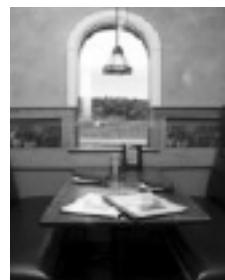
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Police Department's Annual Report Gets High Marks

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry Police Department saw zero grievances and only a handful of employee complaints filed last year, according to the department's annual report to the town manager.

"With 60 officers working a normal 40-hour work week, there were only 14 complaints for 2,080 hours worked last year. That means less than 1

percent of our work hours generated a complaint," Police Chief William Hart said. "It shows the people of this community are getting superlative policing for the money they spend."

"The residents should be very pleased," Town Manager Kevin Smith said. "I think you'd be hard pressed to find another police organization in the state that does this type of internal audit. I was

very impressed by it, not only by the reporting, but also by the low number of incidents reported. To have numbers so miniscule speaks to the high professionalism of the department."

In 2014, the department received reports for three internal affairs incidents, seven administration reviews, and four employee complaints. There were two grievances filed between 2012

and 2014, both of which were withdrawn - one was settled and the other was withdrawn unilaterally, according to the report.

Hart attributed the low number of complaints to the department's three-piece management scheme: hiring good candidates, training employees well and supervising and managing effectively.

In particular, Hart emphasized the importance of the supervisor

function and training hours.

According to the report, Londonderry officers received 3,799 training hours last year. Those include 558 hours on use of force; 102 hours on workplace harassment; 1,272 hours on tactical and emergency response; and 1,867 hours dedicated to continuing education. The majority of the cost associated with training hours is related to personnel expenses.

"Training comprises a significant role to ensure that our personnel are properly prepared to handle the many challenges in our dynamic profession. As a result, this illustrates both a direct and indirect correlation between low reportable incidents and routine investment into our personnel through proper and strategic training," the report says.

In addition to noting employee grievances and internal incidents, the report includes a chart detailing 13 incidents where officers were required to use force, of which 77 percent occurred when the suspects

were under the influence of alcohol or drugs. There are four suspects reported to have sustained injuries as a result of force used by officers, all of which were minor in scope, such as a bump on the head or minor scrapes; and one officer sustained an abrasion to his arm while using force.

In all 13 calls for service where force was used, the officers' actions were in accordance with State statutes, according to the report. The number of incidents where force was used last year increased slightly over 2013, where there were 10 calls for service that required an officer to use some sort of force.

"Every use of force is reported. We do this type of report every year. It's an audit of the whole policing service," Hart said. "Police should always be transparent about what they're doing. Every police department faces these issues, whether they're in communities that are diverse with regard to race or income or language."

Two Citizens' Petitions Miss Filing Deadline

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Citizens' petitions to fund construction of a portion of the Londonderry Rail Trail and to dissolve the Airport Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District failed to make it onto the Town's 2016 War-

rant. Both petitions were filed after the Jan. 19 deadline, which Pollyann Winslow, a volunteer with the Londonderry Trailways, noted is set by the State.

"There's no blame anywhere," she said. "We're volunteers and a lot of these people are also running their households and businesses. We have been communicating by email and everyone understands there are a lot of articles on the ballot this year. No one's upset, there's a time and place for everything."

Winslow said it's far too premature to speculate as to whether or not the Trailways would submit the article for funding next year - anything could

happen.

"Of course, the committee will continue to work to support the Rail Trail and we certainly hope the people using it and wanting to see it extended, and businesses who see it's an asset to community, will continue to support it," she said. "We'll continue to work on it and another new section of the Rail Trail will be paved and open in the spring. We're all very

excited to open the new section."

Ken McLoon of Kitt Lane, who worked with Richard Bielinski of Hall Road to file a citizen's petition to dissolve the Town's TIF District, said there was a misunderstanding about the filing deadline and they intend to submit the petition next year.

"We had 43 people sign the petition in two days. I would imagine

we'll have 80 well in advance of the next election if the TIF still exists," he said.

Although the Town Council is considering an amendment to shrink the TIF, McLoon said he wants them to get rid of it altogether and will be tracking what's being spent of the money it generates.

"It all should be in the general fund," he said.

Police Have Person of Interest in Burglaries

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Police have a suspect of interest related to a string of local burglaries, including one at the Stumble Inn early on Jan. 19.

Officers responded to an alarm at the Stumble Inn just before 5 a.m. Monday and found the back door open. An officer saw a shadow walking by in the building and when officers attempted to make entry at the rear of the building,

the suspect ran out the back door carrying a sledgehammer, according to Police Det. Chris Olson.

The suspect ran up into the woods and police called for a K-9 track, which was terminated prior to locating the subject.

While detectives were

responding to the burglary at the Stumble Inn, police received a call from the Bacon Barn nearby on Sanborn Road reporting an attempted burglary.

"We have a suspect of interest," Olson said. "We believe he may be linked to several other residential burglaries in the area."

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Marie's Corner

Hello, again. When the Londonderry Times was first distributed, I was presented the opportunity to write a short column. Well, I am at my computer and preparing to do the same again.

Starting this month, and once a month thereafter, the paper will include a Marie's Corner. The column will focus on educating our children, and present facts and ideas for parents.

I hope you will be watching for the column, and that you will find it helpful.

Be talking to you soon,
Marie

Marie A. Parker,
BS-Elementary Education, MLS-Masters Library Science
Elementarylibrarylessons.com • marieaparker26@gmail.com

Graduates

Continued from page 1

the future may bring.

"The educators and administrators that have been working with us have done a phenomenal job from day one preparing and guiding us in the right direction so that when we do close this chapter in our lives, we will have the knowledge and the perseverance that we need in order to be successful in anything we want to do," she said. "Our diplomas are recognition of that."

"Our diploma is the same as a regular education diploma," said Mikayla McCormack, also a student speaker at the graduation event. "We may have had some troubles along the way, but we did what's right. We came back."

McCormack, who earned one of two Manchester Community College scholarships, said she thought she would be a high school dropout. But thanks to the support of her teachers and her dad, who supported her even when she didn't believe in herself, she walked across the stage in a white cap and gown to receive her



Ashley DiBenedetto addresses her fellow graduates as an honored speaker.

diploma.

"I can speak for everyone when I say, I hope you all become very successful in life," she said.

Graduate Joshua Tate, who Adult Education teacher Alan LaBranche called one of his best students and a hard worker, also earned a Manchester Community College Scholarship.

"Josh works all day in his family's business, but he would come to class ready to learn and he was always smiling," LaBranche said. "He has a strong work ethic and I know this scholarship will help him go on to own and manage his own business."

Before presenting McCormack with her scholarship, Civics and Economics teacher James Choquette said she took more classes than he has ever known a student to take and through her efforts in the program displayed hard work and dedication.

The 17 students who graduated were Mitchell Case, Shannon Coburn, Shaina Cositgan, Ashley DiBenedetto, Sarah DiRocco, Caraline Falzone, Justin Follett, Travis Gilcreast, Kaylee Griffin, Stephanie King, Karalyn Martino, Mikayla McCormack, Jeffrey Mousseau, Brittany Perry, Makenzie Reeves, Mitchell Swanson and Joshua Tate.

"We are all very proud of you and your accomplishment," Superintendent Nate Greenberg told the graduates. "You have demonstrated the power in you to imagine what you wanted to accomplish. The goals you set for yourself can be achieved. Your diploma is a symbol of your hard work."

"You have the ability to steer the future in the direction you want," School Board Chairman Leitha Reilly said in an address to the graduates. "I'm glad you will never have to ponder the question, 'what if I had graduated?'"

Reilly told the gradu-



Londonderry High School's Adult Education Class of 2015 march in to their diploma ceremony. Photos by Kaitlyn G. Woods

ates, with their diplomas in hand, that they can now dream bigger and go farther.

"We're here, because like your parents and friends, we're proud of you - proud you chose to earn that diploma and continue down the path of success," she said. "Dream big and do not let any future 'what if's' go

unanswered."

Adult Education teachers who addressed the graduates encouraged them to maintain a positive outlook on life and enjoy the journey.

"When you do something a lot, everything seems to become common. You become dull to the fact," Choquette told graduates. "It's not until

your life changes that you look at life in a new light."

Choquette said this group of adult education students are the best students out there - they are not on autopilot.

"They saw the plan ahead of them. They found their way to graduation and they know where they're going," he said.

Donation Made to Police

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry Police Department announced last week that Charles George Trucking donated practice and qualification targets for the department's firearms training program.

The new practice tar-

gets are valued at \$1,224.

Charles George Trucking has been donating items to the Londonderry Police Department for the last seven years, Lt. Tim Jones wrote in a press release.

"We have received items such as cold weather gear for the Technical

Accident Reconstruction (TAR) Team, GPS (Global Positioning System) units, barricades, cones and internal communication monitors," he said. "The Londonderry Police Department is very fortunate to have such a generous supporter in the community."



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—LONDONDERRY SPORTS—

Lady Lancer Cagers Claim Unexpected Blowout of Bedford

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The meeting of the Londonderry High School and Bedford

High girls' basketball squads in the LHS gym last Friday night, Jan. 16, gave people no reason to believe that the two

teams wouldn't play another intense game with a tight finish, as they had in their two previous meetings.

However, on a night when it seemed as though the old sports adage "As long as the ball is round, anything can happen" came to the forefront, the host LHS Lady Lancers ended up handing the previously undefeated Bedford Lady Bulldogs a stunning, 46-28 drubbing that left the two squads with matching 7-1 Division I records.

Last March, the LHS cagers claimed their first state championship since 1990 by besting Bedford by a 57-56 tally in the DI championship battle.

Then, when the two teams reconvened for a rematch of that title contest just before Christmas, the host Bedford bunch bagged a last-second, 53-52 win to hand new coach Nick Theos' defending state champs their first defeat of the 2014-15 campaign.

So, Friday night's game was expected to be another humdinger of a battle, only this time on the Lady Lancers' home court.

However, the Lady Bulldogs would likely have had trouble hitting water from a boat out among the waves during the first period, as the Bedford side sank just one of the 12 shots during those eight minutes as the host Lady Lancers sprinted out to a 15-3 lead.

The Londonderry advantage sat at 22-12 at the half, and 29-20 after three periods.

And the Lancers put the game away in the fourth quarter by outscoring their guests by a big margin of 17-8 during that stanza.

The Lady Lancers worked hard and effectively on several zone defenses in helping to frustrate the Bedford crew throughout the game, but the Lady Bulldogs also created a good amount of frustration for themselves - with a hand from old Lady Luck to be sure - by sinking just 12 of the 49 shots they attempted from the field.

"I don't think (standouts Nicole) Tucci and (Brianna) Purcell are going to have a lot of nights like that, so we definitely did catch them on a rough night," admitted Theos. "But our kids did execute the game plan we had in place well too."

The victorious locals did deal with some shooting woes themselves in the contest. But after zipping out to a 13-0 lead during the first seven minutes of the opening quarter, Londonderry never saw its advantage slip below six points the rest of the evening.

The closest Bedford ever came to threatening the Londonderry lead was when the visitors made it an 18-12 contest with 1:17 to go in the second period as the Lady Lancers struggled to hit their shots. But when that second stanza ended, the hosts were up by 10 points at 22-12.

Both teams were sloppy through the first five

minutes of quarter number three, and when that stanza was concluded the LHS side was up by nine.

And any questions of a Bedford comeback in the fourth quarter evaporated when the hosts got their advantage back up into double digits and kept it there.

Junior standout Ashley Berube led her victorious team's offense with 16 points, while seasoned guards Kelsey Coffey and Jackie Luckhardt each added eight and senior forward Brittany Roche was good for seven.

All in all, seven Lady Lancers netted points in an unexpectedly lopsided win over a tough opponent that really struggled that evening.

The Division 1 leading Lady Lancers will next face Merrimack High School on Friday, Jan. 23 at home and then will travel to Nashua South to face the Purple Panthers on Jan 26.



Standout sophomore guard Kelsey Coffey and the LHS girls' basketball squad rolled past the visiting Bedford High lady cagers in Londonderry Friday night. Photo by Chris Paul



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Lancer Wrestlers Keep Major Successes Rolling In

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

It appears as though the 2014-15 Londonderry High wrestling team is catapulting itself into the upper echelon of New

Hampshire wrestling contingents this winter.

Coach Jason Cucolo's Lancer crew continued to tally up impressive performances last week by edging out the always-

tough Concord High Crimson Tide by a slim margin in a head to head match-up in that opponent's home gym on Wednesday, Jan. 14, and then by besting Concord again along with two other opposing squads in winning the first Pinkerton Academy Border Wars Duals Tournament in Derry Saturday, Jan. 17.

The LHS grapplers just got past Concord's Crimson Tide by a 33-32 tally in the state capital, thanks to bout victories from senior standout Jean-Luc Lemieux at 138 pounds (pin at 1:25), Jake Barr in the 152-pound bout (9-7 decision), Kyle Byrd at 160 pounds (7-2 decision), Mahdi Achab with a vital 7-2 decision at the 170-pound level, Richard Bilodeau at 195 pounds (17-3 major decision), youngster Craig Santos at 113 pounds (pin, 5:06), Tyler Byrd in the 120-pound battle (fall just 39 seconds in), and Ryan Cabezas at 126 pounds (9-4 decision).

Cucolo wound up being penalized a point for misconduct late in the

match, but that one-point subtraction didn't end up making a vital difference in the tight outcome.

"I was very pleased with the fight from my guys," said the head coach. "Whether they won the match or lost, they fought the entire time. The guys worked hard each match and I was very proud of the way they kept themselves composed."

After having been around New Hampshire wrestling as an assistant coach at Salem High over the past several years, the new LHS mentor knew of Concord's reputation and skill. So he was aware that nothing would be easy about trying to best that opponent in the dual meet.

"We knew they were going to be tough to beat, especially since we have to forfeit 220 and 285. So every match we wrestle we are behind 12 points. I felt that the turning point was when Mahdi Achab, the clear underdog, wrestled a perfect match and beat (Ian) Wagner, 7-2. I felt that it was at that

point we didn't worry so much about the 12 points we were giving up."

And Cucolo then watched his final three grapplers follow Achab's impressive lead and get Londonderry the match win.

"The last three matches that we needed to win all fell on freshman Craig Santos, who pinned his opponent; Tyler Byrd, who also pinned; and then a dominant performance from Ryan Cabezas to seal the match. These guys showed so much heart and composure, knowing that the match fell on their shoulders and that the only way for us as a team to win was for them to win all three matches," said the coach.

Cucolo was left surprised by the point he lost through an evidently inadvertent case of misconduct.

"I still was never given complete clarification, even after the match," he said. "I was told that when things got heated between Cabezas and the Concord opponent that I stepped on the mat, and that is an automatic team point. I was unaware that I did this and I apologized to the ref and left it at that."

The Crimson Tide

would be eclipsed by Londonderry one more time before the week was out, this time at the new Pinkerton tourney, which brought those two talented teams as well as the host Pinkerton Astros, Windham, Nashua North, and Bay State grapplers from Winchester, Mass., together in one gym.

The Lancers disposed of Nashua North handily in round one (51-24), then Windham in round two (47-27), and finally Concord by a considerably larger margin than a few days earlier (35-26) in the title-round of the tourney.

In the upending of North, Londonderry wins were delivered by both Byrd boys, Cabezas, Lemieux, Achab, Bilodeau, Santos, Sebastian Rozczenko at 182 pounds, and Kevin Robischeau in 106-pound competition.

Besting Windham was achieved with wins from Cabezas, 132-pound grappler Drew Chase, Lemieux, Colin Reardon at 145, Barr, both Byrds, Achab, and Bilodeau.

The Lancers snared their second defeat of Concord in a matter of days, thanks to individual successes from Lemieux, Barr, the Byrd brothers, Achab, Bilodeau, Santos, and Cabezas.



The LHS Lancer wrestling team continued its superb 2014-15 season last weekend by winning the first Pinkerton Academy Border Wars Duals Tournament. Pictured with the championship trophy are Londonderry seniors, in back from left, Jean-Luc Lemieux, Richard Bilodeau, and Kyle Byrd. In front are Sebastian Rozczenko, left, and Jake Barr.

Photo by Chris Paul

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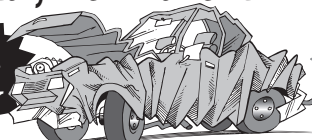
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LHS Girl Swimmers Sweep, Boys Split in Big Home Meet

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The news and results were pretty much all quite good for the Londonderry High girls' swim team in a home meet - which included the arch-rival Pinkerton Lady Astros - late last week. But the LHS males had to be satisfied with a split in their

competition on the evening of Friday, Jan. 16.

LHS veteran coach Chrys Ewen saw her Lady Lancers swim past all comers in the meet, besting Pinkerton by a 95-75 tally, Somersworth by an overwhelming 139-5 margin, and Dover by a slim 88-82 count.

On the boys' side of the ledger, Ewen's Lancer

males were defeated by the visiting Pinkerton Astros handily (110-60), but they salvaged a win by defeating the Dover High Green Wave (91-76) to go 1-1 overall on the evening.

The Lady Lancers' victory over the visiting Lady Astros handed Londonderry High a point in the winter Ball Family Trophy games, but Pinkerton got that point back by winning the boys' swimming competition over the Lancer guys.

GIRLS

The LHS girls' successful effort was paced by individual event winners Emily Buttafuoco and Brianna Nowicki, who won the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard breaststroke respectively.

Buttafuoco took the 50 free in a time of 26.71 seconds, and Nowicki came out tops in the 100-yard breaststroke with an

unmatchable time of 1 minute, 17.64 seconds.

The Londonderry ladies also snagged a bunch of second places, thanks to the work of their 200 medley relay and 200 free relay quartets, along with the fine efforts of Allison Martin in the 100-yard butterfly and Buttafuoco in the 100 free.

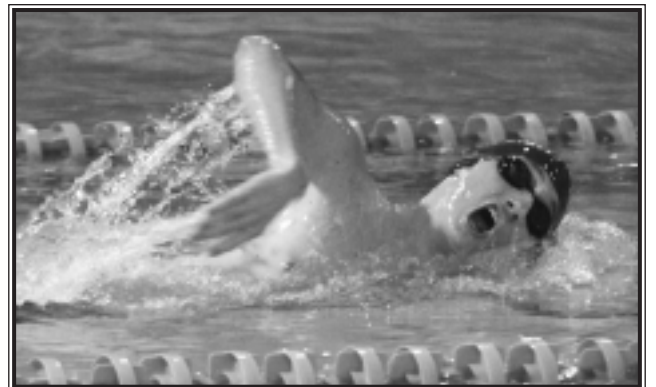
BOYS

The Lancer guys had their most noteworthy individual event success in the 100-yard freestyle, which was won by Matt Monahan (53.52), with his teammate Mike Weisse right behind him in second place.

The boys also claimed second-place finishes in the 200 freestyle relay and the 400 freestyle relay, and Kyle MacKenzie collected an individual second in the 100-yard butterfly as well.



Allison Martin helped her Londonderry High swim team to plenty of success - including a Ball Family Trophy win over Pinkerton - last Friday night.



Nick Byrne and the LHS boys' swim team couldn't quite find the path to victory past the Pinkerton Academy Astros last Friday evening.

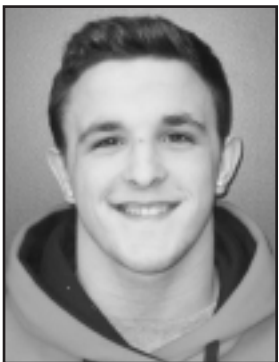
Athletes of the Week

For the Week of Jan. 12



**Jackie Luckhardt,
Junior, Girls'
Basketball**

This highly-athletic 11th grader, who is leading her team in assists this season, had eight points and eight assists in a big rematch win over Bedford. Her floor leadership was essential in the Lady Lancers' success.



**Kyle Byrd, Senior,
Wrestling**

This intense veteran has dominated during the Lancers' last two tournaments. He also helped the team to a tight win over Concord, and he has become a leader and helped his Lancers to a 6-0 start.

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Londonderry High Icemen Start Up a Winning Streak

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Slam victories over the Alvirne/Pelham and Hanover High contingents last week enabled the Londonderry High ice hockey team to build up a three-game winning streak and push its Division I record up to a fine 5-2.

The Lancers' 3-1 defeat of the host Alvirne/Pelham Avalanche at the Skate 3 Arena in Tyngsboro, Mass., Wednesday night, Jan. 14, was noteworthy for a number of reasons, even if it was a tad on the underwhelming side.

Londonderry bumped

its divisional record up to 4-2 and handed the 1-5 Avalanche its fifth consecutive D-I defeat on coach Peter Bedford's birthday. And the guy who handed over the most glittering gift to his mentor on the evening was senior goalie Colby Joncas, an LHS baseball standout who had never played organized hockey prior to this season.

Receiving his first regular season start, Joncas made 17 saves and barely missed out on bagging a shutout in the contest. Alvirne/Pelham potted its only goal of the evening - on a power-play - with a mere 58.4 seconds left to

play in the game.

"Colby has never played goal or organized hockey before, and he gave us a pretty good game when called upon tonight," said Bedford.

The Lancers didn't have a whole bunch to celebrate following a sloppy and scoreless first period, but they did all the scoring they'd end up needing to win this contest in the first 2:14 of the second stanza, thanks to power-play goals from Cooper Roy (assists to Colby Austin and Alex Laplante, 1:15 in) and Troy Muldoon (2:14 in) as they utterly dominated the second period. The

locals enjoyed a 14-3 advantage in shots on net in the middle period and headed into stanza three with that 2-0 lead.

Bedford's bunch spent more than half of the third period killing off penalties, but Mike MacKenzie handed his Lancers a 3-0 lead on their first shot of the period (with 9:28 to go) as a result of an ugly Avalanche turnover near the home team's own net. The host squad didn't manage to put the puck past Joncas until less than a minute remained, and that one marker was the only one Alvirne/Pelham would bag.

"We didn't play a very clean game tonight, for whatever reason," said Bedford. "But coming off a good win (over Pinkerton days earlier), we got the win and everybody got at least a shift and all of the guys were able to feel involved."

The Lancers then played host to a struggling Hanover High Marauders' crew at the Salem Icenter last Satur-



Londonderry High ice hockey captain Lucas Poulin glides in alone on the Alvirne/Pelham squad's net during the Lancers' road victory over that host at the Skate 3 Arena in Tyngsboro, Mass., last week.

Photo by Chris Pantazis

day, Jan. 17, and the locals managed to skate away with a tough 2-1 win to push their winning skein up to three games. Troy Muldoon and Pat Maloney got the scoring done for the victors - with

assists being registered by Andrew Morrisette, Alex Laplante, and Merrill Neiman - with goal-tender Cody Baldwin turning aside some 14 Hanover shots in contributing to the win.

Astros and Lancers All Tied Up

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Pinkerton Academy claimed an early but modest 2-0 lead over the Londonderry High Lancers in the 2014-15 Ball Family Trophy competition in December, but since then the rival schools have managed to get all knotted up at three wins apiece.

Pinkerton's boys' and girls' track and field squads both beat their Lancer rivals in indoor track league action at the University of New Hampshire to

help give PA a boost as it tries to win the Ball Family winter games for a fourth consecutive season.

The Ball Family games then continued on Wednesday, Jan. 7, when the PA and LHS wrestling squads met up at Londonderry High, and the Lancers won handily.

Next, the two schools' hockey teams faced off Jan. 10 at the Salem Icenter, with LHS taking that victory too.

Then on Jan. 16 the schools' swim teams battled, with PA winning the boys' event and LHS snar-

ing the girls' win. Those two outcomes left the Ball Family Trophy count at 3-3.

The two schools' girls' gymnastics contingents battle at Londonderry on Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m., and the ski teams hit the slopes against one another at Mount Sunapee on Tuesday, Feb. 3. The Lancer and Astro basketball teams will then play a doubleheader at PA on Friday, Feb. 6, with the girls tipping off at 6 p.m., and the boys set to play at 7:30 p.m.

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Lancer Gymnasts Snag Wins in Nashua and Salem Meets

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The competition was intense in the five-team gymnastics meet at Nashua High

School North Thursday night, Jan. 15. But when all of the events had been completed, the Londonderry High Lady Lancers had a slim team victory to

celebrate.

The local gymnists tallied an overall group score of 127 to narrowly outdistance the Bishop Guertin Lady Cardinals of Nashua (124.9). The always-tough Salem High Blue Devils ended up third (121.55), the host North Lady Titans were fourth (109.55), and the Nashua South Lady Purple Panthers brought up the rear in fifth place (98.30).

"The girls have been very consistent this year, scoring around 127 at every meet so far," said LHS assistant coach Emily Panacopoulos. "We are proud of how well they did tonight, pushing through the sicknesses, injuries, and being stressed out about mid-terms next week."

The Lancers received individual third place fin-

ishes from Mira Kutney on the uneven bars and the balance beam as well as in the all-around (score of 32.75). Jill McIntire contributed a third on vault, and Maddy Britting was good for a third in the floor exercise.

Fourth places were delivered by McIntire on bars and floor and in the all-around (32.35), with Kutney ending up fourth on vault.

Lady Lancers' head coach Heather Tuden was particularly pleased with the inner strength shown by her charges in the tough meet.

"I think our strength is definitely our heart, and how our girls really come together and support us," said Tuden. "So when one girl falls, the whole team gets up and supports her, which helps her go on to the next event so that way

she can put up a strong routine."

And the Lady Lancers kept the successes rolling right in this past Monday, Jan. 19, by defeating the host Salem High Lady Blue Devils and three other teams in a five-team meet at Salem High.

Londonderry exhibited its skill and depth in tallying the winning team score of 131.15, with host Salem second (127.95),

Pelham third (121.2), Dover fourth (107.1), and Windham last (99.65).

The locals had Kutney finish second in the all-around scoring, and McIntire bag second place in the vaulting on another successful evening.

LHS graduate and current Keene State College journalism student Jacob Barrett contributed to this story.



Jessi Pignone has been a solid contributor so far this season on the bars, balance beam and in the floor exercises. Photos by Chris Paul



Mira Kutney and the Londonderry High girls' gymnastics squad excelled at a pair of important road meets last week.

LHS Tracksters Have Fine Showings at UNH

CHRIS PANTAZIS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Londonderry High boys' track and field squad finished second out of nine teams and the LHS lady tracksters wound up third out of eight contingents in New Hampshire Indoor Track and Field League competition at the University of New Hampshire in Durham this past Sunday, Jan. 18.

Coach Matt Smith's Lancer guys scored 60 points to finish behind only the powerful Pinker-

ton Academy Astros (111), and Lady Lancers' veteran coach Sue Johnson saw her charges tally a score of 45 to wind up behind only Pinkerton (74) and Bedford (101).

BOYS

The Lancer guys had senior star Starlin Ortiz win three events, scoring big points in the 55-meter hurdles (7.70 seconds), the high jump (6 feet, 4 inches), and the long jump (21 feet, 1/2 inch).

The LHS males also received a first place from Kyle Foden in the shot put

(43', 5 1/2"), with Lukas Charbonneau contributing a second place in the 600-meter run, Trevor Guay collecting a third in the 300-meter dash, and Josh Wasserman putting forth a third in the 1,000-meter run.

GIRLS

The Lady Lancers' strong effort was spear-

headed by 55-meter dash winner Yorgelis Ortiz (7.40), Starlin Ortiz's talented younger sister.

Important second places were tallied by Courtney Guay - sister of Trevor - in the 1,000-meter run, Natalie Howes in the 55-meter hurdles, and the squad's skilled 4x100 relay quartet.



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Local Girl Scouts Kick Off Cookie Season



Local Girl Scouts held their annual Cookie Kick-off Party recently at Matthew Thornton Elementary School, where Girl Scouts of all ages learned the ins and outs of selling the many varieties of cookies. The girls performed skits and sampled the original Girl Scout cookie recipe. The cookie sale is taking place now throughout the area.

Photos by Chris Paul

Site Plan Gets Approval for 28-Unit Senior Housing

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The Planning Board has approved the site plan for construction of a 28-unit senior housing project on Trail Haven Drive.

At its Wednesday, Jan. 7 meeting, the Board additionally granted a waiver from site plan regulations related to the site plan fee

schedule and a Conditional Use Permit to allow improvements within the Conservation Overlay District (COD) wetland buffer on the site.

"The project is significantly smaller than what was originally proposed for the site," engineer Earl Blatchford of Haynor Swanson told the Board of the amended site plan,

which includes changing the name of the development from Whittemore Estates to Trail Haven Estates.

Geographic Information Services Manager John Vogl said town staff recommended the waiver to the Site Plan Fee Schedule because although the parcel the townhomes are being developed on is

29.8 acres, the scaled-down plan disturbs only approximately three acres.

Based on the Planning Board's past practice, calculating the review fees using the area of disturbance would seem more reasonable, he said.

Changes to the new site plan include the removal of a clubhouse, which was replaced with 11 additional units, as well as the removal of parking lots. The amended site plan features New England-style townhomes with gabled roofs and garages located under-

neath the units.

Additional improvements to the property languished until last year. The first phase of construction at the site was completed in 2004, which included the construction of Trail Haven Drive.

Just north of the property, a 78-unit workforce housing project, NeighborWorks, is under way.

The Planning Board approved in November a variance to decrease the amount of space required between townhomes from 60 feet of space to 30 feet.

The Design Review Committee and the Fire Department have signed off on the plan, having looked at all aspects of 30-foot separation, such as roads and the widths of roads, and fire hydrant locations.

The Conservation Commission recommended the Board approve the Conditional Use Permit, subject to the removal of a parking area shown in the COD buffer adjacent to one of the townhome units. The site plan had been revised to accommodate that request.

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Chamber Brings Politicians, Business Owners Together

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Local politicians and small business owners rubbed elbows at an event hosted by the Greater Derry Londonderry Chamber of Commerce and the Government Affairs Committee.

The early morning breakfast reception at the Derry Opera House last week served as an oppor-

tunity for business owners to meet their elected officials and discuss the challenges they face.

"Please use the opportunity to advocate for your business. We hope this starts the conversation with the people who are representing you in Concord," Chamber President Will Stewart told attendees.

State Senators and Rep-

resentatives from Londonderry, Derry, Atkinson, Auburn, Chester, Hampstead and Windham attended the Jan. 16 reception, which was sponsored by Derry Medical Center and catered by the Red Arrow Diner, which opens in Londonderry in February.

The event started at 7:30 a.m. to give members of the business community an opportunity to par-

ticipate, according to Government Affairs Committee member Deb Paul, Nutfield Publishing publisher.

"It's important to know who our representatives are and to have the opportunity to share what we're trying to do," said Pollyann Winslow of Londonderry Trailways, who attended the event to learn more about the progress other communities are making on Rail Trails and to speak with legislators about grants and other funding

opportunities.

Londonderry Town Manager Kevin Smith said he appreciated the opportunity to meet with legislators and members of the business community, as did Senator Sharon Carson, R-Londonderry, who called the event "a great opportunity to connect with business owners in the District and listen to their concerns."

To assist with keeping the conversation going, the Chamber offered

guests booklets with photos of their legislators and their contact information.

"I think everyone got a lot out of it," Londonderry attorney Nancy Michels, chairman of the Government Affairs Committee, said of the event, which she said was the first of its kind.

Stewart said he would like to see the Chamber host more meet-and-greet events, with the potential for the legislative event to be held annually, before sessions in Concord begin.



Newly elected State Rep. Doug Thomas of Londonderry, left, and Londonderry attorney Nancy Michels chat with Executive Councilor Chris Pappas at the Chamber's Business & Government Reception.

Dumpster Fire at Comcast Warehouse

KAITLYN G. WOODS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

Londonderry Fire personnel extinguished a fire in a commercial-sized Dumpster at the Comcast Warehouse on Nashua Road on Jan. 15 at 7 p.m.

Upon arriving at the scene, crews found the Dumpster well-involved, and a compactor located

in close proximity next to the building, according to Battalion Chief Jim Roger.

It's fortunate one of the Comcast workers coming in late from a job called right away, he said. "They sit way back and that fire would have really gotten going without anyone seeing," Roger said. "It would have likely spread into the building, with the com-

pactor located in such close proximity.

It took firefighters about an hour to knock down the fire.

"In special situations like that, we're lucky we have the rescue truck that could pull the Dumpster away from the building because if we hadn't, it would have been tough to get at," Roger said.



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AROUND TOWN

New Policy for Around Town: This section is meant to be used to announce free events to the communities. If your group or non-profit is receiving money for what they are publicizing, there will be a charge of \$30.00/week per paper. All Around Town/Calendar Items will be held to 100 words maximum; anything over will incur a charge of \$30.00/week for up to another 50 words. All free announcements in the Around Town/Calendar section can run a maximum of 3 weeks. Deadline for submissions is Monday at 5 p.m. **Additionally:** We will run the full versions of any calendar items online free of charge at www.nutpub.net. Please send items to calendar@nutpub.net.

Kickball League

Londonderry Athletic Fields Association (LAFA) is adding a kickball program to teach kids skills to benefit them as they move on to play baseball and softball. The children will learn to run bases, throw the ball, and catch the ball with two hands. The coaches will pitch; all children will bat. The program is for children who will be 4 years old by April 30, 2015 and not older than 5. Registration is 9 a.m. to noon at the Londonderry Middle School cafeteria Jan. 24. Fee is \$40 per child, with family maximum of \$210. For details, visit: www.lafa.info.

Voter Registration

The Supervisors of the Voter Checklist will meet at Town Hall on Saturday, Jan. 31, from 10 a.m. to noon to register voters and correct the checklist. Anyone who has not previously registered may do so for the Town and School Deliberative Sessions. Proof of citizenship, identity and residency is needed, or affidavits may be signed. Jan. 31 is the last day to register to vote before the Town and School Deliberative Sessions. No one can register at the sessions.

Worry Cycle

On Tuesday, Feb. 17, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Londonderry Middle School cafeteria, the Londonderry School District Wellness Committee presents "Anxious Kids, Anxious Parents: How to Stop the Worry Cycle" with licensed clinical social worker and psychotherapist Lynn Lyons. She specializes in the treatment of anxiety disorders in adults and children and has an interest in breaking the cycle of worry in families. To register for the event, email dconroy@londonderry.org.

ry.org or call 432-6925, ext. 3140

Kindergarten

Registration for the 2015-2016 school year is occurring for Moose Hill School. Any Londonderry child who will be 5 years old by Sept. 30, 2015 can be enrolled at Moose Hill. Call Moose Hill at 437-5855, stop in between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays or email the director, Bonnie Breithaupt, at bbreithaupt@londonderry.org to request a registration packet, or visit londonderry.org. Include child's name, birth date and Londonderry address. The kindergarten program has two sessions, morning from 8:45 to 11:20 a.m. and afternoon from 12:30 to 3:05 p.m. The session is determined by address.

Chinese New Year

The Leach Library celebrates the Chinese New Year on Monday, Feb. 9, from 4 to 5 p.m. Children will hear stories about the Chinese Zodiac, learn what happened to "Goldy Luck and the Three Pandas" and learn a few Chinese words. All participants will leave with a plush dragon and bookmark with Chinese characters to color at home. Advance registration is required and begins at 9 a.m. Monday, Feb. 2. To register, call 432-1127 or stop by the Children's Room.

Snowshoeing

Venture Crew 145 hosts a snowshoe or hike with the group Feb. 8 at 2 p.m. at Londonderry United Methodist Church, 258 Mammoth Road. Snowshoes will be provided with advance notice. Meet at the church back parking lot. The co-ed Venture Crew is for ages 14 through 21 and meets one Sunday a month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Londonderry United Methodist Church.

For further information, visit: Crew145NH.Scoutlander.com or call Cheryl Perry 425-0061.

Video Camp

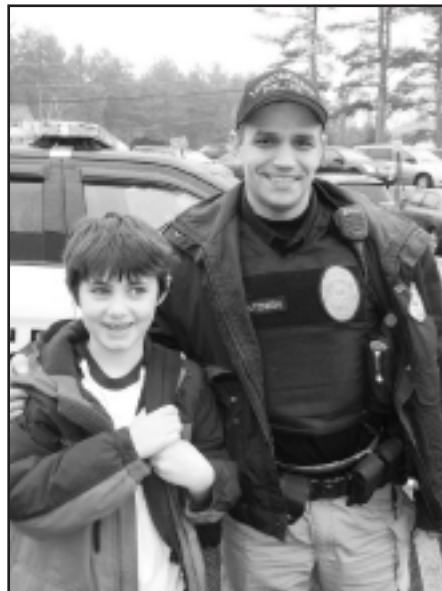
The Londonderry Access Center holds its first video camp during February vacation. The camp is open to middle school students and will run Feb. 23-27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students will learn studio and field production. To sign up or for more information, contact Erin at 432-1147. The last day to register Feb. 13.

Lions Club Concert

The Londonderry Lions Club hosts a concert from 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Lions Hall, Mammoth Road, to benefit Londonderry High scholarships, local sight and hearing, and Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. Bobby and the Sharptones will perform classic rock and roll from the '50s through '80s at the Valentine's Day-themed concert. Admission is \$20 per person, \$35 per couple and includes popcorn, chips, pastries and coffee. Soda and water will be sold. Alcoholic beverages will be allowed; B.Y.O.B. Gift certificates, 50/50 drawings, and prizes are featured. For details or to purchase tickets, call Jerry at 434-5307.

Book Fair, Ice Cream Social

Londonderry Middle School holds its annual Scholastic Book Fair for grades 6-8 Jan. 26-30. Students may purchase books during their assigned time to visit the fair or before and after school. A Family Ice Cream Social is Wednesday, Jan. 28 - snow date Thursday, Jan. 29 - from 6 to 8 p.m. in the 6th grade pod; the book fair will be open. All students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.



Riding in Style

South School student Jimmy Thibodeau, grade 2, left, arrived at school in a police car and first-grader Madison Sawyer arrived in a fire truck on the last day of class before the holiday vacation. They were the winners of a raffle prize offered by both departments; the drawing took place at a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) fundraiser at the annual Breakfast with Santa at South School.

Courtesy photos

Fifth-grade students and their families are encouraged to attend. LMS Principal Richard Zacchilli will give tours of the school, and the Reading Department will discuss Lexiles and reading levels.

Dying and Death

On Thursday, Jan. 22, from 7 to 8 p.m., Rabbi Peter Levy of Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1 1/2 Hood Road in Derry, will present "Dying and Death: The Jewish Perspective." He will discuss the contemporary Jewish view of death and the afterlife, trace its historical roots, and list basic preparations people should make. This free talk is part of a series titled "Key Issues in Contemporary Judaism." For more information, see www.etzhayim.org or call 432-0004.

Potter's Bowl

Community Caregivers of Greater Derry hosts its 10th annual Potter's Bowl fundraiser from 5 to 8 p.m. Jan. 30 at Promises to Keep, Route 28, Derry. For \$40, select a handcrafted pottery bowl donated by local artists and all-you-can-eat soup donated by Derry area restaurants, along with breads and desserts. Take-away soup is sold at 7 p.m. for \$5. The event includes a 50/50 raffle, music, and silent auction of items donated by area artists. Buy tickets from Caregivers at 432-0877 or its

office at 1 B Commons Drive, Unit 10, Londonderry. For soup menu and auction items, visit www.comcaregivers.org.

Volunteer Tutors

A volunteer tutor orientation workshop for Adult Learner Services of Greater Derry will be held at the Derry Public Library on Wednesday, Jan. 28, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tutors work one-on-one with adult learners to help them improve reading, writing, math or English skills, or prepare for the HiSET high school equivalency test. Scheduling is flexible, once or twice each week for two hours, usually at the library. Training, materials, and ongoing support are provided. For information or registration, call 432-1907, email als.greaterderry@yahoo.com, or visit www.GreaterDerryLiteracy.org.

Dale Freeman Concert

Dale Freeman will be at the Leach Library on Monday, Jan. 26, from 4 to 5 p.m. for a concert of original music and well-known favorites on guitar in a variety of different musical styles, including rock and roll, country, and blues. The fun-filled, interactive performance consists of lots of dancing, movement and singing for all ages. Advance registration is required and begins at 9 a.m. Tuesday,

Jan. 20. To register, call 432-1127 or stop by the Children's Room.

Children's Programs

The Children's Room at the Leach Library will offer the following programs as part of Winter Session 2: Craft Time, Toddler Time and Shake, Move & Read. Winter Session 2 will run Feb. 11 through March 5. Advance registration is required and begins at 9 a.m. Monday, Feb. 2. Anyone on the waiting list for Winter Session 1 will automatically be entered in Winter Session 2.

Legion Bingo

American Legion Post 27 will run bingo for patients at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Manchester on Jan. 26 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Donations are appreciated, or stop by and help out. The Post will serve pizza and diet soda as well as providing \$150 in prize money.

Free Meals

The Community Free Meals Network presents the following free meals in Derry. Derry residency is not required. Weekdays, 4 to 5 p.m., dinner, Sonshine Soup Kitchen; Jan. 25, noon, lunch, Seventh Day Adventist Church; and Jan. 30, spaghetti supper, 5 to 6:30 p.m. First Parish Church.

Londonderry Police Log

Selections from the Londonderry Police Logs

Monday, Jan. 12

2 p.m. Samantha Rose Donahue, 22, Rockingham Road, Derry arrested on warrant for Simple Assault and Reckless Operation. Bail set at \$1,000 cash, with Derry Circuit Court date of Jan. 13.

3:25 p.m. Acme Armament, LLC, Mammoth Road reports receiving counterfeit check in attempt to purchase firearm.

Tuesday, Jan. 13

5:14 p.m. Caller on Plum-

mer Drive reports vehicle has been vandalized.

6:50 p.m. Caller reports hearing dog barking incessantly, appears to have been left outside in the cold for hours at a time past few days at Bear Meadow and Lawson Farm roads.

9:11 p.m. Caller on Sparhawk Drive reports loud music.

9:28 p.m. Luis Eduardo Nunez Rosario, 24, Tokanel Drive, Londonderry

arrested for Domestic Violence Simple Assault and Criminal Mischief (vandalism). Bail set at \$1,500 personal recognizance, with Derry Circuit Court date of Jan. 27. Christopher Savina, 45, Tokanel Drive, Londonderry arrested for two counts of Second Degree Assault and one count of Domestic Violence Simple Assault. Bail set at \$1,500 personal recognizance, with Derry Circuit Court

date of Jan. 27.

Wednesday, Jan. 14

4:05 p.m. Londonderry Fire responding for gas leak in building on Pendleton Lane.

6:39 p.m. Caller on Currier Drive reporting vehicles in driveway were broken into last night.

Thursday, Jan. 15

1:19 a.m. Caller on Capitol Hill Drive reports neighbors being loud.

7:49 a.m. Caller on Jersey Street said he dropped his pistol and shot himself in the foot, round 9x18 hollow point.

7 p.m. Londonderry Fire responding to Comcast Warehouse and Headend

Building, Nashua Road, for Dumpster fire with exposure to building.

Friday, Jan. 16

1:05 p.m. William Quinn, 61, 4R Rocco Drive, Derry arrested on warrant for Disobeying an Officer. He was released on \$1,000 personal recognizance bail, with Derry District Court date of March 3.

Saturday, Jan. 17

8:02 p.m. Andrew Joseph Therien, 60, 24 Ash St., Londonderry arrested on warrant for Criminal Threatening (intimidation, etc.), Criminal Trespass, Stalking, Obstructing Report of Crime or Injury, and two counts of Domes-

tic Violence Simple Assault. He was held on \$2,000 cash bail and was transported to Rockingham County House of Correction in Brentwood, with Derry District Court date of Jan. 19.

Sunday, Jan. 18

8:42 a.m. Caller on High Range Road reporting fireworks or target shooting at end of Hickory Hill Drive.

12:02 p.m. Forced entry reported on High Range Road.

Monday, Jan. 19

4:49 a.m. Burglary at The Stumble Inn, Rockingham Road. Units in foot pursuit, canine track terminated.

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TOWN OF LONDONDERRY LEGAL NOTICE

The Londonderry Town Council will hold PUBLIC HEARING on the following item:

1.) **Ordinance #2015-02** - An Amendment to the Municipal Code Title V, Chapter III, Board, Committees and Commissions

The Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Londonderry Town Hall, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH 03053. A copy of the proposed amendment may be viewed at the Town Manager's office during regular business hours and online at www.londonderrynh.org.

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Please apply in person at Pinkerton Academy,
19 North Main Street, Derry, NH 03038

Tickets on Sale for Caregivers' Potter's Bowl Jan. 30

PENNY WILLIAMS
LONDONDERRY TIMES

The annual Potter's Bowl, a fundraiser for Community Caregivers of Greater Derry, returns this year on Friday, Jan. 30, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Promises to Keep on Route 28 in Derry.

This year marks the 10th for the fundraiser, which features all-you-can-eat soup and bread served in a handcrafted pottery bowl, as well as an auction of local artwork and crafts.

Community Caregivers, which recently moved its office from Derry to Londonderry, serves the elderly and disabled in the communities of Derry, Londonderry, Windham, Sandown, Chester, Hampstead and Danville. Its purpose is to create a volunteer network that provides support and assistance to help people maintain independence in their home environment. Its services are free.

For a \$40 ticket, patrons select a handcrafted

pottery bowl, donated by New Hampshire artists, and chose from an array of soups donated by area restaurants. The meal also includes breads and desserts. Take away soup is sold in the last hour of the event for \$5.

Among the soups offered are: Cheeseburger Soup from Whippersnapper's in Londonderry, Baked Potato Soup from Panera Bread in Derry, Beef Barley Soup from Avandi's in Londonderry, Tomato Basil Soup from

The Kitchen at Windham Country Junction, Hearty Chicken Vegetable from The Coach Stop Restaurant in Londonderry; Clam Chowder from T-Bones in Derry, Chicken Vegetable Rice from Janie's Uncommon Café in Londonderry, Italian Wedding Soup from Rig-A-Tony's in Derry, and Creamy Vegetable Chowder from Jerome's Deli in Londonderry.

A pottery wheel demonstration will take place one hour prior to the

event for patrons waiting to enter. Also planned are a 50/50 raffle, music by Sharon DeLuca, DJ, of Simply the Best Entertainment, and a silent art auction. The Red Star Twirlers will serve at the event.

Auction items include oil and acrylic paintings, matted photography, watercolor, gift certificates, and handcrafted jewelry.

Cindee Tanuma, executive director of Community Caregivers, said of the event, "What I like most about the Potter's Bowl is

that it has never been underwritten nor sponsored. It is strictly a community event, working with the local artists, businesses and the restaurants to make the event what it is. It is just about these community people and their work and their art. We have found a way to tap into local businesses, providing ways for them to support us in ways that don't hurt them. And, what is better on a cold winter night than hot soup and bread!"

Tickets sell out quickly. To purchase tickets, call Caregivers at 432-0877 or visit the office at 1B Commons Drive, Unit 10, Londonderry weekdays. For directions and an updated soup menu and list of auction items, visit: www.comcaregivers.org.

Londonderry Senior Citizens, Inc., Reorganizes

The new Board of Directors of the Londonderry Senior Citizens, Inc., (LSCI) met recently to approve organizational changes and make plans for the rest of the year. LSCI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization registered with the state.

Elected as officers were: Ron Jablonowski, administrator/chief executive officer; Jan McLaughlin, assistant administrator; Ron Jablonowski, treasurer/chief financial officer; Bonnie Ritvo, Co-treasurer; and Carol Jablonowski, secretary. Re-

vised by-laws were discussed and adopted, updating and replacing those in place since 2007.

Each board member chairs one of the permanent committees: Fundraising, Bonnie Ritvo; membership, Carol Jablonowski; publicity, Jan

McLaughlin; purchasing and inventory, Doris Rand; Sunshine Committee, Mary Ellis; and Volunteer Committee, Joyce Chasse. Each committee chair will develop procedures and recruit committee members from the membership at large.

Plans include an annual membership meeting of Londonderry Senior Citizens, Inc. Members wishing to serve on a committee may leave contact information at the front desk of the senior center in the Mayflower Grange, 535 Mammoth Road.

Persons age 55 and older who reside in Londonderry or surrounding towns are invited to join LSCI. Applications for membership are available at the Senior Center during normal operating hours: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. The annual membership fee is \$10.

For more information, call 432-8554, visit www.londonderrynh.org/Pages/LondonderryNH_Senior/index or Friends of the Londonderry Senior Center on Facebook.

Londonderry High Hosts Destination Imagination Training

Teaching over 500 students' collaboration, communication and problem solving skills can be fun, and on Saturday, Jan. 10, students from around the state visited Londonderry High School to learn the skills to prepare for state-wide competitions in Destination Imagination (DI) Challenges based in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), Improvisation, Visual Arts, Service Learning, and

Early Learning.

Each Challenge is solved only by student team members. Over 3,000 students will compete in New Hampshire, joining the over 200,000 students competing in 48 states and 30 countries.

Saturday sessions ranged from improvisation and presentation skills to identifying and using properties of materials in unique ways, as well as problem-solving communication and collabora-

tion techniques.

"This is about learning these skills, primarily from our alumni – the adult appraisers who were once on a team just like our student team members are," said Jill Schoonmaker, New Hampshire executive director. "Now they are working in science, education, the arts, medicine, government – almost everywhere, but they come

back to share how to learn and apply the skills in creative problem solving."

DI teams form in the fall and compete in March. Each team seeks to advance to the State Finals and ultimately to Destination Imagination Global Finals in May.

For more information, visit NH-DI.org or <http://facebook.com/NHICC>.

Hearing Test Set for Senior Citizens

Announcement-
Free electronic hearing tests will be given from Monday-Friday 9am – 5pm at Avada Hearing Care Centers at 8 locations in New Hampshire. Call to find the location nearest to you. The test has been arranged for anyone who suspects they are not hearing clearly. People who usually say they can hear but have trouble with understanding words are encouraged to come in for the tests. The testing includes newly-developed tests that determine your ability to hear speech in noisy environments. Everyone, especially those over 55 who have trouble hearing words clearly, should have a test annually. Demonstrations of the latest devices to improve clarity of speech will be available, on the spot, after the tests. You can HEAR for yourself if the latest methods of correction will help you understand words better.

Call for your Appointment

1-888-798-8528

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TOWN OF LONDONDERRY PLANNING BOARD

The Londonderry Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Moose Hill Council Chambers, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry, NH to consider the following:



PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Public Hearing Regarding Route 102 Corridor Study by Southern NH Planning Commission.
- Riverview, LLC (Owner and Applicant), Map 6 Lots 37 and 38 - Public Hearing to Consider the Applicant's Request to Rezone Lots 37 and 38 from Commercial-IV (C-IV) to Commercial-I (C-I) at 6 and 8 Mohawk Drive.



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Saturday, February 14, 2015

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Friday, February 27, 2015

UNH vs. Merrimack - 7:30 p.m.

*Schedule subject to change

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