

Nutfield News

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Derry To Hire Economic Development Coordinator

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

After recently hiring a company to help recruit retailers to Derry, councilors favor a plan to hire an economic development coordinator.

Although they didn't take a vote, councilors supported a plan proposed by Town Administrator David Caron at the Jan. 3 meeting to hire an in-house full-time economic development coordinator.

Caron said the move is vitally important for economic development in town.

"As we all know through the charter the town administrator is responsible for hiring employees, Caron said. "Except in this case I

think it's critical that the town reaches consensus on a direction on economic development." He added, "Since before I became associated with the town, it was made very clear to me that one of the town's primary goals was to stimulate economic development. Part of that strategy is to identify, and secure the necessary resources to help us achieve that goal."

To help offset the Derry's tax rate, which is one of the highest in the state, councilors have been exploring ways to generate tax revenue and help develop the local economy.

While the town likely will not become another Salem or Manchester, both with large retail sectors,

councilors voted unanimously at their Dec. 20 meeting to hire Buxton Marketing for retail development services. The agreement calls for the town to pay \$50,000 for the first year, with the option to hire Buxton for the remaining two-years of the contract. The agreement also offers the possibility of engaging Buxton to develop a hotel feasibility study at a one-time cost of \$10,000. All 2017 costs will be funded from the FY 2017 economic development budget, according to officials.

The next step in the plan is to hire an economic development coordinator, Caron said.

In the meeting, he said
continued on page 3

Information from Unsealed Minutes Comes To Light At Council Meeting

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

During discussion on a proposed pay increase for non-representative employees, an alleged misappropriation of non-representative employee compensation was revealed from unsealed minutes at a recent Town Council meeting, according to officials.

As the proposed salary increase was being discussed in the Jan. 3 meeting, Councilor David Fischer said he had reservations about it because of an alleged misappropriation of funds that went to non-representative personnel in Fiscal Year 2015-16.

Fischer said "despite clear direction and public

vote on this matter, the interim town administrators and town administrators" in FY-2015-16 allegedly authorized bonus and merit pay increases in excess of \$50,000 to the non-representative employees. He said all other employees did not receive raises in FY 2015-16.

Fischer outlined the course of events that eventually led the Rockingham County Attorney's Office to launch an investigation into the matter. But that probe was later halted when the county attorney found in November that there was insufficient evidence to move forward with an indictment, said Fischer, who criticized county attorney officials for not doing

enough to investigate the matter.

During the discussion, Councilor Charles Foote asked for a point of order. Speaking to Council Chairman Brian Chirichiello, Foote said he believed the minutes pertaining to the information Fisher cited were sealed.

Foote said, "Mr. Chair I believe that as a point of order I believe that was sealed information."

Fischer said, "We are discussing this information."

"Foote then said, "I believe that was sealed information that was not duly voted on to unseal, to release that information publicly, for the record,"

continued on page 4



SNOW GOING Shirley Cox of Derry makes her way down the ninth fairway at the Hoodcroft Country Club on Sunday morning taking advantage of the fresh coat of powder laid down from Saturday's storm. Shirley and her husband usually make their way around the entire course.
Photo by Chris Paul

Derry Non-Representative Employees Awarded Pay Increase

HUNTER MCGEE
Tri-Town Times

In exchange for opting for a lower level health plan, Derry's non-representative employees have received a four percent pay increase.

In their Jan. 3 meeting, councilors voted 5-2 to approve the increase following a lengthy discussion.

The decision to approve the across-the-board increase comes after all of Derry's union members

recently came to agreement with the town, Town Administrator David Caron said. About eight non-representative employees, who are mainly in senior management, received the increase.

continued on page 2

School District Deliberative Session Scheduled for Feb. 4

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

Just weeks away from the deliberative session, school officials say the proposed budget for the 2017-18 school year would increase by \$3,067,041, or 3.8 percent over last year's approved spending plan of \$79,761,247.

School Board members were scheduled to hold a public hearing on the budget on Jan. 10 at West

Running Brook Middle School. The hearing would be followed by the deliberative session on Feb. 4 at 10, also at the middle school.

Voting is scheduled for March 14.

Members of the School Board and the Fiscal Advisory Committee met in a series of meetings in recent weeks to craft the budget. The proposed budget calls for spending \$82,829,041, Business Manager Jane Simard said

in a presentation at a recent School Board meeting.

Some of the proposed increases include an increase in contracted services of about \$213,000 for such services as speech, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy, Simard said. In addition, there is a proposed increase of \$183,000 for transportation services, she said. Simard said the school district is in the fifth and final year of a contract with

First Student for transportation services. The district has sent out eight bids to transportation companies, including First Student, so the numbers could change, Simard said.

While there are proposed cost increase in the spending plan, there are also some cost reductions, Simard. Some of these include a utility cost reduction of \$415,000 through a project by the Honeywell Corporation, and a printing, liability

cost reduction of \$4,000. In addition, Pinkerton special education costs will decline by approximately \$187,900 with the proposed budget, Simard said.

A number of the proposed cost increases are beyond the school district's control and include an approximate increase of \$1.6 million in benefits the over current budget due to health insurance and New Hampshire retirement, Simard said.

Other major cost fac-

tors that are beyond the district's control include a proposed increase of \$1,063,839 in Pinkerton Academy tuition for the 2017-18 school year and \$183,734 for transportation.

A public hearing will be held on the budget on Jan. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at West Running Brook Middle School, followed by the deliberative session on Feb. 4 at 10, also at the middle school. Voting is scheduled for March 14.

Pay Increase

continued from page 1

"They agreed to provide a lower level health plan in exchange for an

increase in wages," Caron said.

The increase is effective as of July 1, 2016,

Caron said.

In addition, there is a change in the way compensation adjustments will be managed in the future. All will now be based on achievement of goals, and

the compensation adjustment can range from 0 to three percent, Caron said.

The council also approved changes for non-representative employees coming on board beginning July 1, 2016. Longevity will no longer be offered, Caron said.

"Right now we have earned time throughout the organization," Caron said,

adding," longevity is no longer going to be offered to new employees coming to work for the town.

"We've Established a two-tier system which essentially allows our non-representative employees to receive the benefits they've always received with a change in health and a change in the way future adjustments are made. For our new employees there are a number of changes which the council believes are more market appropriate."

Councilor Joshua Bourdon, who voted against the proposal along with Councilor David Fischer, said he opposed the

plan because of time off for current non-representative employees can be used.

While he said he was happy with changes the contract has for future employees. Bourdon said, "I'm disappointed with what we've done with the existing non-representative employees. The total time off one can get can be as high as ten weeks and I believe it's excessive."

He added, "I understand employees would not want to lose their compensation or their money. I would have liked to have seen pay a reduction in time off and shifted into salaries."

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Public Hearing Scheduled For Cooperative Seeking Block Grant Funds

HUNTER MCGEE
Tri-Town Times

Frost Residents Cooperative, a 30-unit manufactured housing community, is applying for block grant funds to provide better drinking water to the complex.

Councilors agreed at their Jan. 3 meeting to schedule a public hearing on

the proposal for Jan. 17. That meeting has since been rescheduled to Jan. 24 and will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the third-floor meeting room of the Municipal Center.

Named for famed American Poet Robert Frost, who once lived in Derry, the Frost Residents Cooperative, at 139 Rockingham Road, is currently on a private well and private septic

system. The system is aging and dates to the 1960s, according to officials.

"They are failing, and there is physically not more room that they can put new ones in," Planning Director George Sioras said at a prior meeting.

In 2015, Councilors agreed to allow the Frost Residents Cooperative to apply for up to \$500,000 in Com-

munity Development Block Grant funds to pay for a project to connect to the town's water and sewer system.

According to the proposed application, the town will retain up to \$25,000 for administrative expenses, with remainder to be used toward financing the reconnection into the municipal water and sewer system of the Cooperative.

Within the past two years, the town completed a project to expand municipal water and sewer along Rockingham Road to Route 28 and along Route 28 and By-Pass 28. Allowing the complex to connect to the town's water lines would help provide safer drinking water while also improving water pressure, Sioras said.

Public Works Director

Michael Fowler said the change could be made in less than a day.

In 2014, councilors approved a plan to pay for up to \$12,000 in CDBG funds to conduct a study to determine if it would be possible for the cooperative's private water system to be able to connect to the town's water system.

Economic Development

continued from page 1

the town could choose to hire an in-house employee or a contracted entity, which could be either full-service firm or an individual.

In exploring options, Caron said he looked at all of the models and conferred with a number of economic development practitioners, with experience in New Hampshire and throughout the country. He said the feedback he received is clear.

"Our best chance for success is to hire an entity that can establish an ongoing relationship with our business community to serve as a resource regarding business financing, state and local tax incentive programs," Caron said, adding, "Someone who is able to speak very clearly and consistently and to provide a sustainable presence for economic development for the town of Derry."

Based upon his research and after reviewing the proposal from the Economic Development Advisory Committee for securing outside services, Caron said he

recommended hiring "an in-house full-time economic development coordinator from our existing resources."

Caron, who started work as the town administrator last month, said plans call for having someone in place in the position in March, which should be about the same time the Buxton Corporation has completed its preliminary retail analytics.

Caron said, that this "would allow us to move forward on the retail sector, and we'll begin to move forward on the commercial, industrial sector, downtown redevelopment and redevelopment throughout the community."

Buxton successfully helped Rochester to attract retail and commercial businesses to the community and increase tax revenue, according to officials. Rochester is comparable in size to Derry, with a population of approximately 30,000 people.

The EDAC members have spent a lot of time reviewing the plan and have endorsed the Buxton proposal.

As for the economic development coordinator position, councilors said they supported the plan Caron outlined, while praising the way he explained the proposal.

"I would be in support of a full-time person," said Councilor Jim Morgan, who is on the EDAC. "I would like to see somebody in an office. I would like to see somebody dedicated to this and working with Buxton hand-in-hand, on a daily basis. I think it's vital to develop the remaining parcels that we have and do it right."

Councilor Joshua Bourdon said of Caron's outline of the plan, "I appreciate the manner in which you've laid out all of the information; I think it's clear and concise."

As he looked through the job description, Bourdon said, "It becomes more and more evident to me that a full-time position is definitely warranted."

Bourdon added that he had noticed that one of the responsibilities of the economic development coordinator would be for identifying grant writing opportunities. When he asked

Caron if the person hired for the job could also write grants, Caron answered by saying, "It depends on the priority that we have before us at that point."

Councilor Richard Tripp praised the job description Caron wrote, as compared to an earlier version from last year, before Caron was hired.

"I think the job description, RFP (Request For Proposal) is probably a lot better than we wrote last year,"

Tripp said, adding, "Because it gives the people applying a fairly good idea of what it is they are going to be doing, which is probably the reason they would be interested in coming here."

Councilor David Fischer said, "I think experience has taught us that settling for someone is not the route to go. When you find the right person, it's the only thing that matters."

The council didn't need

to take a vote but only provide input on the item, Caron said.

"Since it's my responsibility, it's not really a motion or consensus; it's just input," Caron said.

Council Chairman Brian Chirichiello concluded discussion on the item by saying councilors seemed in general to favor going forward with the plan.

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Editorial

17 Years and Counting

Seventeen years ago, a vision to create a way for Londonderry residents to obtain local information they needed (soccer registration dates, for example) led to the creation of the first issue of the Londonderry Times. What began as a humble monthly town journal, printed in the basement of the Londonderry home of Deb and Chris Paul, has blossomed through the past decade and a half into three weekly newspapers full of news, sports, features, photos, and advertising for three newspapers serving five New Hampshire towns. All brought to you by a staff of seven in an historic Londonderry building with an unwavering commitment to focus on everything community.

Under the auspices of their company, Nutfield Publishing, the Pauls and their staff (all southern New Hampshire residents) put out three newspapers every week, each one dedicated to the communities they were created for.

The Londonderry Times was started in January of 2000 as a monthly publication. The weekly Nutfield News in Derry started in 2004, and the weekly Tri-Town Times for Hampstead, Chester and Sandown began in 2005.

During a time when print newspapers are expected to go the way of the dinosaur, and people claim that they have no more readers, the Londonderry Times and its two sister publications are still going strong, even as other newspapers cut the number of days a week they publish, slash the number of pages in each edition, or move to a completely electronic platform.

We report on town and school district activities, official and otherwise. Happy stories are given emphasis to ease the uneasiness brought on by less pleasant news. Local high school sports teams get detailed coverage, much to the delight of parents and family members. Most importantly, we make sure that all of our readers are informed of all of the decisions being made and discussions that are taking place in each of their hometowns.

It's not unusual for news stories to appear first in one of the Nutfield Publishing papers, well before other news media can produce a report. How is that? Everyone at the paper is dedicated to producing a quality product, and put great care into what it looks like and what it says, recognizing that timeliness and accuracy are the hallmarks of what a newspaper offers its readers.

The mission, of course, is the same as it was 17 years ago: to provide a place for local residents to obtain information they need about their community, whether it's a school play or an update on how tax dollars are being spent, is our number one priority. What's going on in Concord or in Washington, D.C., or abroad is available elsewhere, mostly online, and does not concern us. But if it happens in one of our towns, you should expect to read about it in our newspapers.

And we always like getting news tips. Stop by our office at 2 Litchfield Road in Londonderry to say "Hello," as we mark our 17th Anniversary.

We're here for you, 17 years and counting.

Unsealed Minutes

continued from page 1

Footo said.

Chirichiello said, "I believe it was all sealed minutes."

Chirichiello said he didn't remember voting to unseal the minutes, as did Footo.

In the meeting, Fischer outlined at length the course of events relating to the alleged misappropriation of funds.

In February, Fischer said the former Town Council members discovered information about additional compensation to non-representative personnel that was allegedly authorized by administrators and an investigation was begun.

A new council took office in March, Fischer said.

In April, the new council received a report of the investigation into the matter that included comments stating that there was an allegedly deliberate attempt to deceive the council, Fischer said.

On April 19, the new council authorized an investigation by the county attorney's office to determine if criminal charges were warranted, Fischer said.

But since nothing was done by September, Fischer said he and Councilor Richard Tripp met with a county attorney representative to discuss the status of the investigation.

In November the county attorney's office sent a letter stating that there is insufficient evidence to move forward with an indictment, said Fischer, who criticized county attor-

ney officials for not doing enough to investigate the matter.

Before casting his vote, Fischer explained why he opposed the pay increase.

"Make no mistake about it I am in favor of recognizing our employees for the important work they do with reasonable salary increases and benefits, but I will not sit back and allow this deliberate and deceitful mismanagement by our former top-level administrators when we as a Town Council have a fiduciary responsibility to the residents in our community," Fischer said. "The public has a right to know about these inappropriate actions of spending taxpayer dollars when the council didn't appropriate funds for these self-serving purposes. These actions were wrong and dishonest and should be resolved after further investigation. It will be shameful if this council doesn't take any additional action to resolve this serious matter."

He added, "Ultimately I believe we should table this matter until we determine who should receive a salary increase for FY17 and who should not."

After listening to Fischer, Councilor James Morgan said there were "a lot of things in last nine months that have been discovered that could have been done better," Morgan said, adding, "management policies that were in that place that could have been done better; there was governance that should have been done better in past years; there were policies that should have been

updated; there were revenues that should have been increased."

Morgan said he read the report Fischer mentioned on the investigation thoroughly. He said he tended to agree with Fischer that the investigation by the county attorney's office wasn't "very thorough."

But Morgan said, "The bottom line here is there are employees, former employees, and former leadership in this town that are no longer working here that I believe that the buck stops there."

Morgan said he couldn't hold subordinates responsible for their superiors' actions and when he didn't have complete facts and data.

"Facts and data are ambiguous at best which is why the county attorney couldn't find anything that was worth pursuing," Morgan said. "I do believe that Councilor Fischer has a very deep passion that there was a wrong done here and I believe he is right in that but I also fully believe that the person responsible for that wrong is no longer employed by this town."

Morgan said he would support the proposal for the 4 percent pay "based upon the benefit of the doubt that they were acting under their superior's authority."

Councilors went on to vote to approve the pay increase, with Fischer voting in opposition.

After the vote, Chirichiello addressed the matter of the unsealed minutes, saying "any sealed minutes that were sealed are not supposed to be discussed, and if any newspapers are asking for this stuff you are not allowed to give it out."

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Project To Build New Sal's Pizza Granted Extension

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

A project to demolish the old Sal's Pizza Restaurant and build a new one has been extended.

Planning Board members voted 8-0-0 at their Jan. 4 meeting to approve a request to extend the project for another six months. The extension will expire on July 6, 2017, according to board members.

Back in July, Board members voted to conditionally approve a site plan to allow Sal's Pizza owner Sal Lupoli to demolish the old two-story building at 2

Lennox Ave. and replace it with a more modern, single-story building. The restaurant has been at the same location for more than 20 years and the building was showing its age, said Phil McCabe, in the company's operations department.

McCabe said it would have been too difficult to remodel the two-story building so the decision was made to demolish it and build a new single-story restaurant.

With approval of the site plan, crews were scheduled to begin the project in the summer with the possibility of it being

completed by as early as the fall, McCabe said.

But those plans changed and Sal's asked for the extension, said Planning Director George Sioras in the meeting.

"This is the first request," Sioras said. "The board approved this back in July, and they are looking for an additional six months."

Before moving forward on the Derry project, the company plans to finish work at their Manchester site and then move forward with a project in Bilreica, Mass before finishing in Derry.

"So they do plan on

doing the project," Sioras said.

According to plans, the new restaurant will feature a brick façade with large windows along the store-front. Along with the new building, new landscaping will be incorporated into the project. In addition, new sewer, water, gas and telephone service for the building will be included, and a new catch basin to capture any storm-water runoff will be added.

A request to add a natural barrier of trees between Sal's parking lot and a parking lot owned by St. Thomas Aquinas

Church was rejected by board members.

But the board did leave open the possibility of opening a discussion between Sal's and the church about possibly adding a barrier when a nearby vacant property is developed.

Sal's Pizza owner Sal Lupoli bought the two-story building more than 20 years ago. The first floor is used by the restaurant and the second floor is for storage.

The new building - at 2,200 square feet - would be a bit larger than the old building, McCabe said.

The project would help

improve an area along Crystal Avenue, said Elizabeth Robidoux, planning assistant.

"We are slowly changing the face of Crystal Avenue, and I think this is another positive change," Robidoux said prior to the vote on the project in July.

Town councilors voted last year to change the zoning for three properties on Lenox Avenue to expand a commercial zone and leave open the possibility of including them in a larger commercial zone just north of nearby Sal's Pizza.

West Derry Conservation Land Acquisition Nearing Completion

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

With councilors agreeing to move forward, the town is one step closer to owning a 63.5-acre tract of conservation land at 7.5 Willow Street.

Councilors voted 5-2 at their Jan. 3 meeting to reaffirm the \$740,000 total acquisition cost of the project. They also agreed to approve spending \$252,500 from the unassigned fund balance in a supplemental appropriation to complete funding the project.

Councilors David Fischer and Phyllis Katsakiores voted against the proposal. A two-thirds majority was required for approval.

The property is being

purchased for water supply and conservation purposes.

In the meeting, Fischer opposed spending the \$252,000 on the parcel. He said he felt the money should not be coming out of the unassigned fund balance.

"I want to clearly state I'm in favor of conservation, there's no question about that," Fischer said, adding, "However, what I am concerned about is the \$250,000 that will be coming out of the unassigned fund balance."

Fischer said the money should not be spent following a recent audit report, which he said cautioned the town not to spend money from the unassigned fund balance.

"I feel very strongly that

we need to be very cautious," Fischer said. "My feeling is that this is not absolutely essential at this time and I think that spending \$250,000 on this at this time is not appropriate and that's the reservation I have."

Also in the meeting, the council approved the Conservation Commission's expense of \$150,000 for the land. Since the council's last meeting in December, the Conservation Commission voted to spend \$150,000 from its funds for the purchase of the land, Town Administrator David Caron said. Under state law, the council, as the governing body, needed to approve the expense, he said.

Caron said administra-

tors think the property will close in February or March

"We are simply waiting for the state grant cycle to finally approve their share of the purchase price," Caron said.

The parcel represents one of the few remaining large tracts of land still available in West Derry.

West Derry was the first

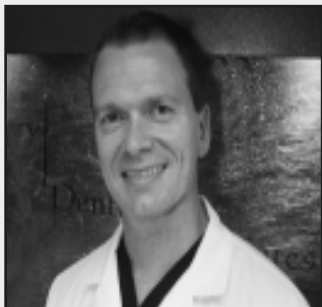
part of the town that was developed and settled primarily as a residential area, according to officials.

As for funding the project, Michael Fowler said at a prior meeting the state will pay for \$337,500, or approximately half of the cost, through a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services protec-

tion grant. The grant reimburses 50 percent of the appraised value along with associated costs such as survey, title, legal and closing costs.

The NHDES grant requires the town to complete a number of tasks in order to comply with the requirements of the grant program, according to officials.

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Committee Moving Forward With Plans For Alan Shepard Statue

HUNTER McGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

Despite the departure of a prior group, a newly formed committee is continuing on with plans to build a statue in town for famed astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr.

Councilor and committee member Joshua Bourdon gave an update on the plan at the Jan. 3 council meeting. Also serving on the committee with Bourdon are Councilor Phyllis Katsakiores, and Derry resident and former Council Chairman Thomas Cardon.

In the council meeting, Bourdon said Cardon had recently reached out to the prior committee and found the members no longer wanted to continue with finding a site for the proposed statue in Derry.

"Unfortunately, they have zero interest in working with Derry," Bourdon said.

Bourdon said the prior committee members are

moving forward with another unnamed community.

Despite the departure of the prior group, Bourdon said the new committee is moving forward with alternate plans and has found three potential sites.

"We are working on moving ahead without them, so we've come up with three different monuments and we have three different areas it would make sense to have them," Bourdon said.

Cardon is looking into trying to get drafting and images of the proposed statue completed, along with cost estimates.

"As soon as we get something more finalized, we'll bring it back to the council to see if it's something they want to pursue," Bourdon said.

Council Chairman Brian Chirichiello said one of the potential sites he's heard mentioned in town is near

the bike path

Chirichiello said the site sounds promising because that's "going to bring in tourism, people will see it if there's a statue there."

Of the three potential sites the committee is exploring, Bourdon said, "That was our top choice."

The site is across from Sabatino's North, with ample parking, Bourdon said.

The new committee was formed last month after the prior committee recently parted ways with the town on the Alan Shepard Project. The multi-member group had discussed possible sites for the statue and an outdoor education center. But after lengthy discussion, the council members decided in October against supporting the three options: Don Ball Park, MacGregor Park or the Shepard conservation land.

The old committee had

received input from a number of town stakeholders, including the Conservation Commission, Public Works, Heritage Commission, Planning Board, Pinkerton Academy, Derry Public Library, and Derry Cooperative School District.

In the Dec. 6 meeting, Chirichiello said he wanted to form a small three-member committee to explore possible sites for a statue of Shepard. He said councilors were basically given an ultimatum to make a decision that night. And since they didn't make a

decision the former committee would look at other communities to put up the statue, Chirichiello said.

A native of East Derry, Shepard became the first American in space in a sub-orbital flight on May 5, 1961.

Following the flight, Derry held a parade that wound through the town in honor of Shepard, according to town historian Richard Holmes. Another parade was held after Shepard's second space flight, Apollo 14, to the moon, in 1971, Holmes said.

During his stint on the moon, Shepard famously hit golf balls with a makeshift 6-iron he snuck aboard the spacecraft. He complained that his space suit was so stiff he couldn't use both hands to swing the club.

About 10 years ago, a group in town hired a sculptor to create a statue of Shepard, but the work never came to fruition, Holmes said.

Holmes said it would be beneficial for Derry to emphasize Shepard's accomplishments, especially for the town's younger residents.

Council Approves Amendments To Town's Building Codes

HUNTER McGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

To clarify miscellaneous permit fees and other items such as refunds, councilors have approved a series of amendments to the Town's Building Code.

Council members voted at the Jan. 3 meeting to approve the changes to Chapter 30 of the Building Code, which includes the town's fee schedule.

For instance, a section on refunds was clarified to allow for essentially 60 days to apply for a refund, or it would be void unless someone went to the council and pleaded their case, said Code Enforcement Director Robert Mackey.

Part of the impetus for behind the change relates to a couple of solar companies doing business in town,

Mackey said.

He said there are a couple of companies "that tend to apply for permits and then months later they were coming back and applying for refunds because for whatever reason the project fell through," Mackey said, adding, "We had some that were literally going for over a year. And there are cases where there might be a legitimate reason for a permit refund, but anything over the 60 days we figured we would leave it to the council to make that determination."

Because the changes are mainly for clarification purposes, there will be a minimal increase in revenues, according to officials.

In addition, other changes included eliminating Chapter 36, which included a lot of Fire Department requirements. All the

requirements were removed and incorporated into Chapter 50. The council approved that change about three months ago, Mackey said.

And finally, some general code requirements were added for clarity, Mackey said. For instance, there were a few code issues that are not really clear in the code, including one section dealing with basements and bulkhead doors on basements.

Before the change, the code allowed egress for residents with living space in their basements.

"We felt that given this climate around here and the snow I don't know a lot of people that actually shovel their bulkheads," Mackey said, adding, "So we are requiring that that doesn't count as a means of egress; they have to provide a different means of egress."



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Annual Potter's Bowl Returns to Pinkerton Academy

MELISSA BETH RUIZ
NUTFIELD NEWS

It started out as a small, staggered gathering in the ballroom of the Derry Masonic Temple. But the Potter's Bowl fund-raiser for the Community Caregivers of Derry has grown, over nearly a decade and a half, into an evening of art, food and most importantly, the kindness of local residents.

The Caregivers will host their 12th annual Potter's Bowl fund-raiser Saturday, Feb. 4, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Pinkerton Academy Freshman Cafeteria, Derry.

For just \$40, patrons will

be able to choose from a selection of handcrafted pottery bowls donated by local New Hampshire artists, and enjoy over a dozen different soups donated from local restaurants in the Derry area, as well as delicious breads & desserts.

The Community Caregivers of Greater Derry has provided services and supplies to elderly and disabled residents in a seven-town radius for nearly 30 years. Thanks to the work of caring and hard-working volunteers, the Caregivers are able to provide transportation, help with light chores, companionship, respite, and

home repair to those in need of a helping hand and caring heart.

The Caregivers also run a Loaner's Closet supplying over 9,000 pieces of gently-used equipment ranging from wheelchairs to shower chairs, all loaned to anyone anywhere for as long as they need them at absolutely no cost.

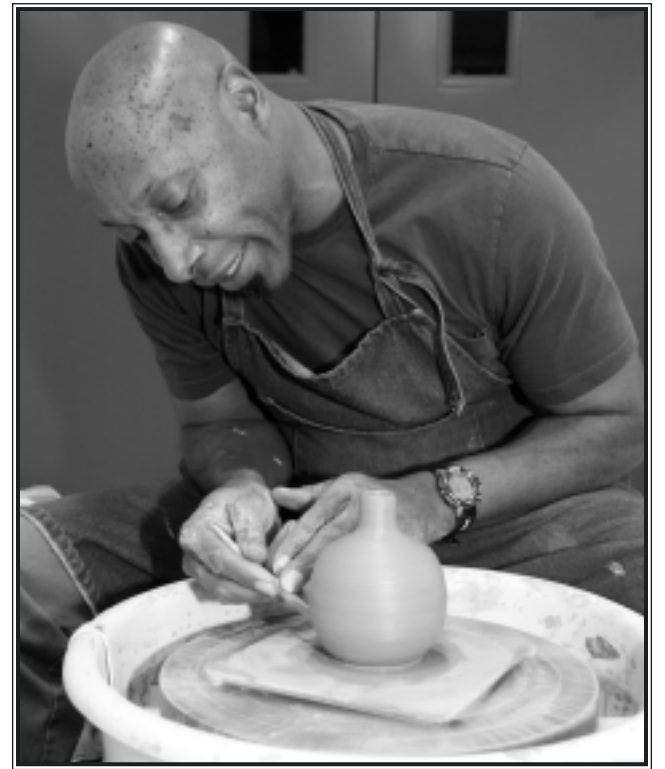
The event has brought in many residents over the course of its inception. In an effort to encourage more families with children, the Caregivers will be selling a "Kids Under 12" Ticket for just \$10. A pottery wheel demonstration will be occur-

ring in the hour prior to the event for waiting patrons. The event will be featuring a 50/50 raffle, musical entertainment, a silent auction, and again the world-famous Red Star Twirlers will be serving. Auction items donated from other New England artists and craftsmen include oil, acrylic and water color paintings, matted photography, wooden crafts, clothing and handcrafted jewelry. The value of all art donated amounts to over \$5,000.

The Potter's Bowl has been made possible each year by the generosity of local artists, businesses and residents.

"The event is not sponsored," Cindee Tanuma, Executive Director of the Community Caregivers explained. "When you take money from a main sponsor...it would change the authenticity. We try to incorporate other events in the calendar year that allow us to let businesses support us. This way, it's an army of small businesses...I think that's always been good that it's about the event."

Tanuma went on to say that the Caregivers have



Pinkerton Academy Art Teacher Mike Gooden was on hand during last year's Potter's Bowl demonstrating how some of the bowls were made.

never looked at the event as a "moneymaker," but as an opportunity to motivate and inform the people in attendance - motivate some to volunteer, and inform others who may need care giving services for their family.

According to a press release, there is still time for local artists to donate fine art, pottery or homemade

crafts for a good cause.

To purchase tickets to the event, contact the Caregivers at 432-0877 or drop by 1 B Commons Drive, Unit 10, Londonderry, during the business day. For a soup menu, directions, and a list of auction items visit www.comcaregivers.org or the Community Caregivers' Facebook page.

Local Track Club's Boston Prep Races Scheduled For Jan. 29

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

The Greater Derry Track Club's annual Boston Prep 16-Mile Road Race has long been popular among area runners getting themselves ready to take on the Boston Marathon in April. And the 22nd GDTC Boston Prep race will be held on Sunday, Jan. 29 this year.

In an effort to include still more folks that day, the local track club has added a shorter, "BP Lite" five-mile road race geared to runners desiring a taste of the Boston Prep challenge. And race director Dan Guttman is more than a little pumped about what his races offer interested runners.

"Calling the prep course scenic is an understatement," he said of the events.

"Running alongside the fields, farmlands, and historic landmarks of East Derry provides a picture of what pastoral New Hampshire is all about, and a pretty picture it is indeed."

The start of both races is on Humphrey Road, adjacent to Derry's West Running Brook Middle School. The five-miler and the 16-miler run together for the first mile and a half. The course then splits at the intersection of Lane Road and Longfellow Road, with the five-miler turning left and the 16-miler taking a sharp right. The five-mile course almost immediately rejoins the 16-mile route but cuts out nearly a dozen miles.

The first two miles of the

five-miler are rolling hills with lots of uphill running. After a loop in and out of the Nelson Farm Road cul-de-sac - necessary to make this a five-miler - the final three miles are flat to downhill, providing for a fast and easy finish. Post-race massages and a hot lunch await the runners at the finish line. That pleasure will be followed by an after-party gathering.

All runners will receive a moisture-wicking long-sleeved jersey and a commemorative shot glass. The 16-mile race finishers will also receive a medal. The Boston Prep events benefit the GDTC's Kids' Summer Fun Run Series.

More information about the races is available at <http://www.gdgc.org>

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Because They Served: Londonderry Man Has No Regrets

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
NUTFIELD NEWS

John Powers Sr. sifted through a pile of yellowed news clippings and black-and-white photos. There were Army newsletters, maps and one color photo of Powers and his wife Gertrude, the reason he didn't make the army a career. "I don't know why I kept this stuff," he said.

"For this moment," his son John Powers Jr. said, while his daughter-in-law Suzanne nodded vigorous agreement.

Powers, who turned 99 on Dec. 20, volunteered for U.S. military service twice and saw combat in the Philippines during the Second World War. He looked forward, not back, for most of his lifetime. But on a chilly December day he agreed to meet at his son's Londonderry home and go through the experience of one member of The Greatest Generation.

Powers, a native of Arlington, Mass., joined up for the first time in November 1940. He was working part-time in a drugstore, helping to support his widowed mother and siblings. "Things were not good at home," he said, with a family and country still reeling from the Great Depression. He joined under a special program, "Goodbye Dear, Back

In a Year," which allowed young men a one-year enlistment.

For that first hitch, Arlington and the world were both smaller then, and Powers smoothed the edges of a faded news clipping announcing his enlistment, along with three other Arlingtonians, and an "enlistment celebration" in the Town Hall.

The Army released him on Dec. 3, 1941, and he came home. But the 24-year-old Powers had barely had time to unpack when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, and he was back in the Army by Jan. 3, 1942. There were no public celebrations or hoopla for that second enlistment, but Powers didn't care. He had a country to protect.

He went first to Fort Devens, Mass., where he had spent his earlier hitch, and he worked first for the post fire department, later training as an MP. "It was the coldest place on earth," he said of the post. "You could see through the cracks in the tarpaper barracks."

The mood of the country was, "Everyone was mad at Japan," according to Powers. And the mood of the military was, "Let's go get 'em."

He eventually left Devens for a post in Louisiana, then Seattle, and then training in Hawaii in 1942. By 1944 he was in the Philippines, in Guam, Leyte and



John Powers just celebrated his 99th birthday. He lives in Londonderry with his children and took time to relive some of his time in the military. Photo by Chris Paul

Cebu. He moved on to Okinawa and was based on a small island, IE Shima. at the same time as famed war correspondent Ernie Pyle.

All the islands had civilians still living there, and Powers still marvels over the network of caves they constructed to protect women, children and the elderly. "Their families were in the caves with them," he said, noting that the island was already at war with China.

The women were skittish around the GIs, he noted, due to unfounded rumors. "Little by little they got the feeling

we were not so bad, and they came back into town," he said.

He was part of the invasion of Okinawa in 1945 and saw combat, though he was uninjured, Powers said.

What was going through his mind? "We anticipated getting the job done," he said. That rather than fear was what characterized the GI in the Pacific, he said. "We looked at it like, you go to work Monday morning, you come home Monday night," he said.

He was ill and resting in his tent when he heard about

the Japanese surrender. "A guy named Davila came in to the tent and he said, 'The war is over.' He was holding a bottle of Saki," Powers said.

He could have gone home, with eligibility decided on a point system, but when he found out GIs had a chance to go to Japan he took it, Powers said. He traveled to Hokkaido, a northern island of that war-torn country, "It was just across the ocean from Siberia, and the weather was atrocious," Powers said. "It snowed seven months of the year. We had a two-story barracks, and they had to put blinders on the windows."

"It was time to say 'sayonara' and go home," Powers said.

He met Gertrude, a friend of his sister's, and that was it, Powers said. He decided not to reenlist. He worked for the MBTA in Boston and the couple settled in Brewster, Mass. and had three sons: John, of Londonderry; Charles, also of Londonderry and with whom he makes his home; and Richard, who died in 2009.

He didn't join the American Legion and VFW, and though he kept everything, he didn't dwell on his war memories. "I just went on with my life," he said with a shrug.

"He only signed on to the Veterans Administration last year, at 98," his son said

admirably.

Does he have any regrets? No, Powers said. And if his country were threatened again, he'd go. "Only I'm too old," he said.

Powers moved to New Hampshire to be closer to his sons, and lived for a while at Birch Heights in Derry. But the constrictions of apartment life didn't appeal to him, and he eventually moved in with Charles and his daughter-in-law Linda. He can do things at their home, Powers explained. "I do my own laundry, I paint the trim on the deck, I shovel snow," he said.

His voice is still firm, his mind clear, and all his stories have a point. Powers rated his health as, on a scale of 1 to 10, "9 and 3/4." He doesn't drive any more, giving up his license at the age of 98, but with two sons and their wives in Londonderry, rides are "only a phone call away," he said. He keeps his mind sharp by reading a newspaper every day, and by doing the Jumble puzzle. He, Charles and Linda all do the Jumble and discuss their answers at dinner, Powers said.

What does he want for his birthday? "Another 364 days," Powers said.

This story is part of "Because They Served," an ongoing series on veterans and services to veterans.

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DERRY SPORTS

PA Boy Cagers Hit 0-3, Then Knock Off Unbeaten Squad

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

After seeing its Division I record fall to a frustrating 0-3 with a double-digit road loss early last week, the Pinkerton Academy boys' basketball squad notched what it hopes will be a momentum-changing overtime victory over a previously-undefeated Winnacunnet High Warriors' crew from Hampton in Derry near the end of the week.

The Astros saw their Division I record remain winless with an 80-63 loss at the hands of the Salem High Blue Devils in Salem on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

The hosts won every quarter but the third, leading 24-10 after one period, 45-21 at halftime, and 61-45 after three quarters had been completed.

The Astros actually outscored their hosts by a 42-35 margin during the second half but still trailed by double digits after every quarter.

Matt Anzivino and Jay Reynolds combined for 39 of the Pinkerton points, with Anzivino getting 20 of them and Reynolds netting 19. The Astros also received nine points from Cason Giordano on an evening during which seven PA players scored.

But the Astros then went out and stunned just about anybody who had looked at the Division I schedule for the night of Friday, Jan. 6 and expected the 4-0 Winnacunnet Warriors to simply roll over the 0-3 Astros in Derry.

Pinkerton played as tough as nails and fulfilled coach Peter Rosinski's hopes that his charges could limit the turnovers which had stung them so badly in earlier games in handing Winnacunnet a 61-59 overtime defeat.

Neither side managed a lead of more than seven points during the intense battle, with Winnacunnet leading by three after one

quarter (12-9) and by one point at halftime (21-20).

The hosts then grasped a one-point advantage of 36-35 going into the fourth stanza, which ended with the score deadlocked at 51-51. And Pinkerton then managed to outscore its guest by a 10-8 margin in the extra period to bag the extremely pleasing victory.

"This is a huge win for us," said Rosinski. "To play an upper-echelon team in the division this well and beat them in overtime is absolutely huge."

Nick Bortone had a big night for the victorious locals, netting 23 points while Reynolds contributed 15 and Anzivino added 14.

After the Astros stepped into the fourth quarter grasping that one-point lead, the upper hand changed numerous times with Bortone lifting his squad into a 51-50 advantage with just 25 seconds to go in regulation time when he sank a big three-pointer.

However, Winnacunnet knotted up the score at 51-51 with a successful free throw with those 25 seconds left, and that was it on the scoring in regulation time.

Reynolds - a sophomore transfer from Exeter - then came up huge for his team in the extra period, tallying eight of the 10 Pinkerton points in leading his side to its rather stunning and highly-uplifting success.

Pinkerton then strode into this week with a home game slated against another seacoast opponent - the extremely tough Portsmouth High School Clippers - on Tuesday, Jan. 10, after Nutfield News press time, before traveling to Hudson for a road contest in the Alvirne High Broncos' gym this Friday the 13th.



Pinkerton hoop veteran Matt Anzivino drives right at a Winnacunnet Warrior defender during the Astros' slim overtime victory last week. Photo by Chris Pantazis

PA Tracksters Crown Concord

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

A combination of Pinkerton Academy varsity and junior varsity boy track and field athletes defended their home turf in Derry well this past Monday night, Jan. 9 and defeated the visiting Concord Crimson Tide

by a big score of 70-11.

The host Astros had a big crew of winners, starting with freshman Conor Seleny and his success in the hurdles. Eduardo Fernandez was the winner in the dash, and John Brooks squeaked out a win in the 300 dash.

On the distance side of

things, freshman Nathan Steiger took the 1,500-meter run, freshman Zack Plaza won the 1,000, and veteran Kyle Hajj held off his brother Trevor to win the 600.

In the field events, Colin Bigelow took a win in the shot put, and Troy Voisine was tops in the long jump.

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Lady Astro Cagers Advance to 6-0, Step Into Down Time

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

The undefeated Pinkerton Academy girls' basketball squad stepped into its first two divisional games of 2017 during the early days of January knowing that when it had completed its Friday, Jan. 6 road trip to the seacoast it would be looking at a schedule which had it playing just two more games in the next 14 days.

And the Pinkerton squad made sure it would bound into that slow spell with confidence by beating both the Salem High Lady Blue Devils and the Winnacunnet

High Lady Warriors to move to 6-0 in tough Division I.

The Lady Astros were a full 17 points better than the host Salem squad in a 60-43 victory on the evening of Tuesday, Jan. 3, but the girls had to go right to the wall to get a two-point victory of 46-44 over host Winnacunnet in Hampton three nights later.

In the downing of the Lady Devils, Pinkerton trailed 13-10 after one period but then outscored its host by a 20-4 margin in quarter two to head to the half leading 30-17.

The Lady Astros then outscored Salem by a 30-20

tally in the second half on the way to claiming the pleasing win.

The victorious locals had nine players collect points, with gutsy point-guard Amanda Lemire leading the charge with 17, Alicia D'Onofrio notching 10, and Tori Overko claiming nine. Overko sank a trio of three-point shots and D'Onofrio threw down a pair.

Overwhelming success didn't come as easily in Hampton on Friday the sixth, with the host Lady Warriors (now 4-3) snagging a 14-9 lead in the first quarter. But Pinkerton grasped a slim, one-point advan-

tage of 21-20 when it was time to adjourn for the half.

The PA lead sat at just two points (30-28) at the completion of three stanzas, and the locals hung on tight from there on to claim the win.

Sophomore Brooke Kane paced the winners with 17 points, Lemire notched nine, and Madison Mahoney sank a pair of big three-pointers and finished with seven points.

This week's schedule has the team with only one game - Friday, Jan. 13 at home against Alvirne - in seeking to keep its Division I record unblemished.



Tori Overko netted nine points during the Pinkerton girls' basketball squad's victory over Salem's Lady Blue Devils recently.

Academy Bowlers Bag First-Place in Manchester

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

The Pinkerton Academy varsity bowling squad ran the show in just about every manner during a three-team match at the Spare Time bowling center in Manchester Saturday, Jan. 7.

Captains Austin Caux and David Pierson paced the Astros on the way to their four-point success, which

was gained thanks to the Pinkerton squad's ability to snare the top seed in standard play and then follow

up that effort by defeating the Stevens High contingent from Claremont in Baker play.

The Astros scored a standard-round total of 1,656 pins by rolling games of 820 and 836 to take the top seed and a bye in the first round of Baker play. Stevens was

second with a 1,621, and Merrimack was third with a 1,345.

That impressive performance was made possible by the scoring efforts of Pierson (183 and 201), Caux (148 and 184), Keenan Nash (237, 176), Eric Reardon (141 and 121), Kyle Vachon (111, 154), and Lauren Sylvain (122 and 135).

Once Baker play began, Stevens defeated Merrimack in round one and then faced the Astros in round two. And Pinkerton took the first-

place match by winning two out of three games. The locals snagged game one (202-164), then lost game two (182-164), and ended up deciding the match by winning game three handily (201-165).

The Pinkerton junior varsity squad also enjoyed a strong day, finishing second overall and receiving good performances from Bryant Nourse, Matt Clark, Connor Delea, Brian Wilkinson, Ben Tripodi, Matt Morrison, and Liam Padian.

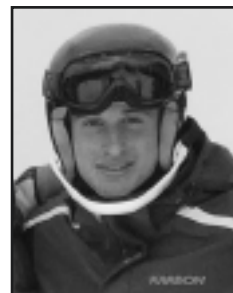
Athletes of the Week

Week of Jan. 2



Brooke Kane, Sophomore, Girls' Basketball

This talented and poised 10th grader helped lead her Lady Astros to a big road win against tough Winnacunnet, scoring 17 points in a slim two-point victory.



Mikka Hyvonen, Sophomore, Boys' Skiing

This impressive athlete placed first overall for the Astros and second overall out of 49 racers at a multi-team event. In doing so, he helped his crew secure second place.

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Astro Icemen Get Bested by Tough Concord Crew on the Road

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

Year after year, the Concord High School ice hockey squad is usually one of the top competitive entities in Division I. And this winter, conversations about who the top teams in D-I are don't go on for long before veteran coach Duncan Walsh's Crimson Tide crew gets mentioned.

And the Pinkerton Academy hockey squad found out just how powerful the Tide can be during the

middle of last week when it suffered its first divisional defeat at Concord's Everett Arena.

The Astros traveled to the state capital on Wednesday, Jan. 4 for a significant test against the host Concord High club, and the academy side didn't pass that test, dropping a 5-1 decision.

"We came out slow and timid to start the game and fell behind early," said PA coach Sam Littlefield. "After one period it was 2-0 in favor of Concord, after

two periods it was 3-0, and the final score was 5-1."

Pinkerton's lone goal-scorer was Gennaro Marra, who busted the Crimson Tide's shutout hopes late in the third period.

"We struggled moving the puck and made too many mistakes in our defensive end," said Littlefield. "We had difficulty capitalizing on the power play, something we usually are able to take advantage of."

This week's schedule had the academy crew playing host to Manchester



Pinkerton senior forward Chris Gile moves the puck up the ice during one of the Astros' recent contests. Gile and his teammates traveled to the state capital and lost a lopsided decision to the tough Concord High Crimson Tide last week.

Photo by Chris Pantazis

Memorial at Hooksett's Ice Den on Wednesday the 11th, after Nutfield News press

time, followed by a much-anticipated meeting with the arch-rival Londonderry

High Lancers at the Tri-Town Arena in Hooksett this Friday afternoon.

Pinkerton Grapplers Excel at Dual Meet and in Tourney

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

Last week was an incredibly productive one for veteran coach Dave Rhoads and his Pinkerton Academy wrestling squad, as the Astros tested their mettle and showed their considerable abilities in a dual meet and at a Vermont tournament as well.

Rhoads' roster plowed its way past the Alvirne High Broncos from Hudson during the middle of last week and then traveled to the annual Mount Anthony Union Tournament in Burlington, Vt., several days later and finished third out of 13 teams.

The Astros overpowered the visiting Alvirne bunch by a 52-24 score at

Pinkerton on Wednesday, Jan. 4, with the hosts winning no less than 10 weight class bouts.

Collecting victories were Kristopher Dinitto at 106 pounds (pin victory), Walker Stinson in the 113-pound bout (7-3 decision), Zach Vigroux at 132 (pin), Tyler Mackiernan at 145 pounds (pin), Cam Miller at 152 (4-0 decision), Kyle Setzer in

170-pound action (13-1 decision), Sterling McLaughlin at 182 (pin just nine seconds in), Cam Macro at 195 pounds (pin), Robbie Fahey at 220 (forfeit), and Deene Hill in heavyweight competition (pin one minute in).

And then on Saturday the 7th at the highly-competitive Vermont competition, the academy grapplers

finished behind only the host Mount Anthony mob and the contingent from Averill Park, N.Y. in collecting third place as a group.

The Astros had no less than seven medalists there thanks to the fine performances of Fahey (first), Hill (second), Vigroux (second), 99-pounder Mark Harrington (second), Mackiernan (third), Stinson (third), and

McLaughlin (third).

This week's slate had the academy crew battling the always-tough Concord High Crimson Tide in the state capital this Wednesday the 11th - after Nutfield News press time - before hosting its own Border Wars competition on Saturday.

Coach Rhoads feels his team has benefitted greatly from earlier tourneys.

Pinkerton Skiers Excel on Crotched Mountain Slopes

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

Pinkerton Academy's girls' and boys skiing teams both fared extremely well in multi-team competitions at the Crotched Mountain Resort in Franconia last Friday, Jan. 6.

The defending Division I champion Lady Astros finished first out of seven teams and the Astro males were second out of seven

squads. The meets were the first of 2017 for both PA crews.

GIRLS

The reigning D-I champs took the first three individual places out of a big field of 52 competitors thanks to the superb efforts of stand-outs Nicole Gonya, Danielle Martineau, and Hannah Peterson in that impressive order.

Freshman Katelyn Ben-

nett was fourth for PA and a strong sixth overall, Emily Gardner placed eighth, and team co-captain Emma Bennett overcame a fall during her first run to place a solid 12th overall.

Caroline Mills contributed a 16th-place overall finish, and Kathryn Leighton was right behind her in 17th. The locals also got assistance from the work of Meghan Lahey and Elizabeth Veal.

BOYS

Returning varsity team members Alex Mielens, Mikka Hyvonen, Eric Ihloff, Dylan Durazzano, Kenny McCarthy, Brandon Simpson, Billy Gonya, Peter Tinker, Camden Caswell, and newcomer Owen Sezgin put forth strong performances in getting their team the overall second.

Leading the pack was Hyvonen, who placed first for the team and second overall out of a field of 49. Sezgin placed second for the team and fifth overall.

McCarthy snagged third for the team and 16th overall, Ihloff placed fourth for PA and 19th overall, and the locals kept coming on strong with team captain Mielens

placing 20th. Caswell ended up right behind the captain in 21st place, Gonya took 25th overall, Durazzano placed 29th, Tinker ended up 32nd overall, and Simpson snagged 37th.

Coach Paul D'Antonio's Pinkerton squads will be back on their skis for another meet this coming Friday Jan. 13 at Gunstock.

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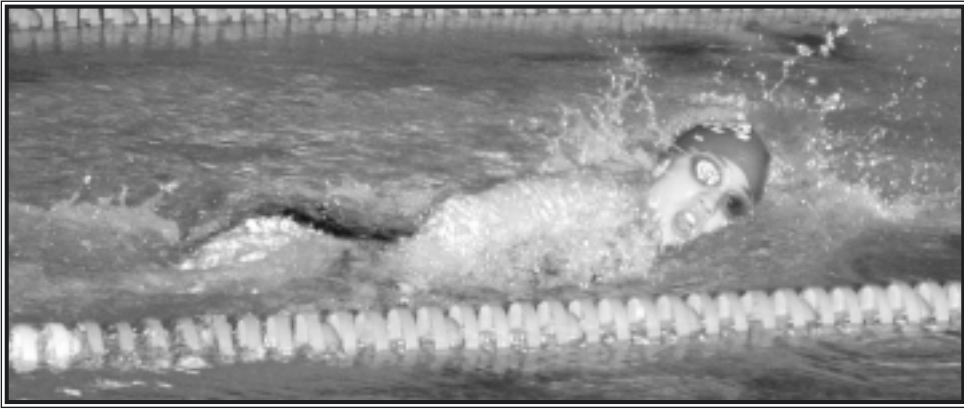
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Pinkerton Swimmers Sweep the Competition, Both Hit 6-0



PA swimmer Christian Nelson excelled in the 200 IM. Photos by Chris Pantazis



Sophomore Madison Young helped the Lady Astros to success recently.

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

The competition put forth by the teams from the Hopkinton and Bow high schools simply wasn't enough to sidetrack the skilled and unbeaten Pinkerton Academy boys' and girls' swim squads at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester on Saturday, Jan. 7.

The Astro males absolutely plowed past Hopkinton by a 140-2 tally and the Bow bunch by a 133-20 score to advance to

6-0 on the 2016-17 campaign, and the Lady Astros also moved up to 6-0 by besting Hopkinton (111-36) and Bow (91-69) quite handily.

BOYS

The Pinkerton guys won no less than 10 events with multiple individual victories coming from Addison Carder-Cannillo in the 50-meter freestyle (27.10 seconds) and the 100-meter breaststroke (1 minute, 17.44 seconds) and Zach Denbow in the 100-meter butterfly (1:06.10) and the 400 free (4:33.37).

Also bagging victories

were Jackson Neeb in the 200 free (2:20.49), Christian Nelson in the 200-meter individual medley (2:42.94), Colby Adams in the 100-meter backstroke (1:19.96), and relay teams in the 200-meter medley (2:20.89), 200

free relay (1:53.14), and the 400 freestyle (4:20.86) races.

GIRLS

The Lady Astros claimed six event wins thanks to the work of Zoe Freedman in the 200 free (2:22.53),

Hannah Terry in the 200 IM (2:43.61), Maya Hedstrom

in the 50 free (29.93), and Olivia Neville in the 400 free (5:09.31). Relay successes came from the 200 free quartet (2:03.89) and the 400 free relay group

(4:26.70). The academy squads get back down to competition this Friday Jan. 13 when they make the short trip over to Londonderry to swim in the Londonderry High Lancers' home pool.

PA Tracksters Compete at Dartmouth Relays

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

Some of Pinkerton Academy's top male and female indoor track and field athletes got the great opportunity to compete against some of the top athletes from across New England, New York, and even the Canadian province of Quebec at the historic

48th Annual Dartmouth Relays in Hanover last Friday and Saturday, Jan. 6 and 7.

The Lady Astros finished 18th out of some 58 teams and had six individuals and two relay teams tally top-25 finishes. The Astro males placed 38th out of 52 contingents and had seven individuals and two relay quartets snag top-25 finishes.

GIRLS

The PA ladies had three stalwarts collect top-10 finishes, with Britney Johnson ending up third in the 1,000-meter run (3 minutes, .77 seconds), Maria Virga tallying a fourth in the 55-meter hurdles (8.82 seconds), and Amelia Graves claiming eighth place in the 300 dash. The Lady Astros' 4x800 relay quartet also snared an eighth place.

Other top-25 finishers included Maison D'Amelio in the two-mile seeded run (15th), Meghan Cross in that same event (16th), the 4x200 relay team (15th), and Colin Virga in the 300 dash (21st),

and Jordan Vaillancourt in the seeded mile (21st).

BOYS

The defending Division I state champs got top-10 finishes from the 4x400 relay quartet (fifth), Caleb Gibbons in the shot put (ninth), and Cam Phelps in the 600 (10th).

Other top-25 finishes were claimed by Pat Bastek in the seeded two-mile (11th), Calvin Graves in the seeded mile (12th), Kayden Baillargeon in the 300 dash (13th), Pat Hanlon in the 600 (14th), the 4x800 relay team (17th), and Colin Bigelow in the shot (21st).

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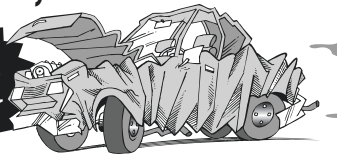
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COMMUNITY EVENTS

This section is meant to be used to announce free events to the communities. If your group or non-profit is receiving money for what they are publicizing, there will be a charge of \$40.00/week per paper. All Around Town/Calendar Items will be held to 100 words maximum; anything over will incur a charge of \$40.00/week for up to another 50 words. All free announcements in the Around Town/Calendar section can run a maximum of 3 weeks. **Additionally:** We will run the full versions of any calendar items online free of charge at www.nutpub.net. Please send submissions to calendar@nutpub.net.

Interfaith Choir

The Interfaith Choir will hold Open Sings during rehearsals Sundays, Jan., 15 and 22, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, East Broadway (Route 102), Derry. There are no auditions, no dues and no prior choir experience required. Singers must be at least of high school age. For more information e-mail ifcderry@gmail.com.

Free Dinner at Synagogue

The Etz Hayim Synagogue will offer a free community dinner Sunday, Jan. 15, from 5 to 6:15 p.m. Eggplant parmesan and lasagna will be served. The synagogue is at 1 Hood Road, Derry. For more information on free meals in the Derry area, visit freemealsin-derry.blogspot.com

Meet Your Legislators

The Greater Derry/Londonderry Chamber of Commerce will hold a Business and Government Reception Friday, Jan. 20, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Searles School and Chapel, 3 Chapel Road, Windham. The breakfast is free to chamber members, \$10 for others. For more information, call the Chamber at 432-8205.

Register to Vote in Derry

The Supervisors of the Checklist will meet Tuesday, Jan. 24, from 7 to 7:30 p.m. in their office in the Derry Municipal Center. The purpose of the session is to register new voters; to receive name, address, and party changes from voters; to approve applications for voter registration; and to approve changes to the checklist. The filing period for town offices is Jan. 25 through Feb. 3, 2017. This session is the last opportunity to register to vote before the filing period. Applications to register to vote or to make name, address, and party affiliation changes to voter registrations may also be completed with Town Clerk Daniel Healey or his staff.

Free Movie

A free movie, "Mary

Poppins," will be offered Friday, Jan. 27, at noon in the Marion Gerrish Community Center. Meals on Wheels and the MGCC are the sponsors. For information, call 434-8866.

Spot Fake News

"How to Spot Fake News" will be the topic of a program to be held Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 6:30 p.m. in the Derry Public Library. Teen Librarian Erin Robinson and Reference Librarian Liz Ryan will co-host the program. Ryan explained that "information literacy" is a passion with both staff members. She wrote in a press release, "For Robinson, it is an opportunity to educate patrons, especially teens, on being smart in the face of misinformation. For me, it stems from my time as a research librarian at The Christian Science Monitor, where I saw firsthand the need for fact checking and reliable sources. We both intend to pass along sources and fact checking methods to help patrons better identify fake news and stop its spread." The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call Ryan or Robinson at 432-6140.

Get Out and Have Winter Fun

The Frost Festival will be held Feb. 10 through 12 in Derry. The weekend kicks off with a free spaghetti supper at the Hood Middle School hosted by the Derry Village Rotary Club. The Frost Ball is back by popular demand. Other events include Wildlife Encounters, a Snowshoe/Running Race, Movie Night sponsored by This Is My Derry, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobile rides (Hoodcroft Golf Course); ice sculptures, sledding and bonfire (Alexander Carr Park); and ice fishing and chili contest (Gallien's Beach). For information call the Rec Department at 432-6136.

Business Workshop Planned in Derry

"Derry Is Open For Business," an all-day workshop, will be held Saturday, Jan. 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in

the Derry Public Library. Three agencies will team up to offer advice and guidance to potential entrepreneurs. Merrimack Valley SCORE, Derry Public Library, and the Town of Derry Planning Department Breakfast, lunch and snacks are included in the cost of \$35. Registration is required by Jan. 26 and those interested may visit www.merrimackvalley.score.org/localworkshops. Seating is limited and early registration advised. Derry Public Library is located at 64 E Broadway.

Alan Shepard Program at Public Library

Town Historian Rick Holmes will present a program on Alan Shepard, the astronaut and native son, on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 6:30 p.m. in the Derry Public Library. The program is free and open to the public. Registration is requested at 432-6140.

Relieve Stress, Color Your World

Adult Coloring Nights will be held Mondays, Jan. 23 and 30, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Derry Public Library. The last session in January will also include puzzles. For more information, call Liz Ryan at 432-6140.

Make own "Fantastic Beast"

"Fantastic Beasts and Other Weird Things" will be the topic of a teen workshop to be held Thursday, Jan. 12, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Derry Public Library. Teens ages 12 to 18 are invited to create their own "fantastic beasts," in honor of the new J.K. Rowling movie. For more information, contact Teen Librarian Erin Robinson at 432-6140 or erinr@dpl.org.

Load up on winter reading

The Friends of the Derry Public Libraries will hold a Book Sale Saturday, Jan. 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Hardcover are \$1, paperbacks 50 cents. Proceeds benefit the Derry Public and Taylor libraries. For more information, call 431-6140.

Library Close

The Derry Public Library and Taylor Library will be closed Monday, Jan. 16, in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

Hogwarts Meal

"Hogwarts' Kitchen" will return to the Derry Public Library on Tuesday, Jan. 17, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Students ages 10 to 18 are invited to join Teen Librarian Erin Robinson for cooking and eating foods inspired by the "Harry Potter" series. Registration is recommended and may be made by calling 432-6140. This is a bridge program and younger students are welcome beginning at age 10.

Free Meals

The following free meals are offered in January: Jan. 15, Dinner at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 5 to 6:15 p.m., 1 Hood Road, Derry, 432-0004; Jan. 19, Dinner at West Running Brook Middle School, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 1 West Running Brook Lane, Derry, 432-1350; Jan. 21, Dinner at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 63 East Broadway, Derry, 434-4767; Jan. 29, Breakfast at Church of the Transfiguration, 9 to 10 a.m., 1 Hood Road, Derry, 432-2130; Jan. 27, Spaghetti Supper at First Parish Congregational Church, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 47 East Derry Road, Derry, 434-0628; and Jan. 29, Lunch at St. Jude Parish Community, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., 435 Mammoth Road, Londonderry, 432-3333. In addition, the Sonshine Soup Kitchen serves a free meal

every weeknight from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Dancers Unite to Help

The Melissa Hoffman Dance Center will hold its annual Make A Wish performance Jan. 29, 2017. The dance center has donated more than \$100,000 to Make A Wish, which grants wishes to terminally ill children. Local dancers 6 and older are invited to participate. Those interested should download the application form and return it by Dec. 15. Mandatory rehearsals are Jan. 14, 21 and 28. The form may be downloaded at <http://melissahoffmandancecenter.info/make-a-wish-2017>. Business owners may also donate an item for the raffle. Tickets to the event are \$15 each. For more information write to mhdcdance@comcast.net.

Brighten A Life With Hospice

Volunteers are sought for Amedisys Hospice in Londonderry. Volunteers can make the life of a patient a little brighter by reading together, playing a board game or doing a puzzle or by simply visiting and sharing valuable time. Amedisys Hospice has an immediate need for volunteers in Rockingham County, Manchester and Concord. For more information contact Patty

Cooper at patricia.cooper@amedisys.com or 421-0414.

Taylor Library

Taylor Library Story Hour registration is open. Story hours are offered for ages 2 to 5 on Wednesdays and Sundays at 1 p.m. Tiny Tot Story Hours for ages 6 months to 2 years are Mondays or Fridays at 10 a.m. LEGO Club for ages 4 and up takes place Tuesdays from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Call the library to register at 432-7186.

The Upper Room, a Family Resource Center

Positive Solutions for families, 6 week workshop for: Parents, Grandparents and Caregivers of Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers Jan. 16, 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. Cost: \$20 per family for all six sessions, light refreshments provided; Monday nights learn how to promote social and emotional competence in your young children, understand your child's challenging behavior, learn strategies to help your child learn appropriate behavior? Support their development of emotional skills. Call to register: 437-8477 ext. 27.

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