

Nutfield News

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Four Candidates Vying For Two Open Council Seats In Derry

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

In the Town Election scheduled for March 14, an incumbent and three other candidates will compete for two open seats.

Vying for an at large seat are incumbent, Joshua Bourdon, and Planning Board Chairman David Granese.

And competing for the District 3 seat are former Councilor Neil Wetherbee and Marc Flattes, vice-chair of the Energy & Environmental Advisory Committee.

Bourdon, 35, is married to Leah and has two children, Sasha and Miles. Along with serving on the Town Council, his govern-

ment experience includes being chairman and pro tempore to Health and Human Services; chairman and pro tempore and creator of the Net Zero Task Force; and liaison to the Energy & Conservation Committee.

Bourdon said he is running, "To reduce taxes while maintaining services through creative solutions."

On what he brings to the table, Bourdon said, "I understand the issues in Derry are Taxes, taxes, taxes; economic development; and continuing to improve the relationships with the School Board and Pinkerton Academy."

Bourdon said, "Derry is better off today than it was three years ago. All union

contracts are settled, the town administrator hired. He added, that there are more businesses in town since he took office, while taxes have been reduced.

He said he also helped to "prevent the closing of a fire station, extended the rail trail, increased the veteran's credit, created the Net Zero Task Force, and improved communication with SAU and Pinkerton."

Bourdon's opponent Granese, 54, is an 11-year resident of Derry who has served as chairman of the Planning Board for 11 years. He is also a member of the Net Zero Task Force.

He has served for 32 years with the Suffolk

continued on page 5

Town Purchases Sawyer Conservation Land For \$465,687

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

Ensuring the land will not be developed, Councilors have agreed to complete the purchase of 78 acres of highly sought after conservation land known as the Sawyer property.

Councilors voted at their Feb. 21 meeting to purchase the property at 138 Island Pond Road for conservation purposes at an overall cost of \$465,687.

Named for the late Ruth Sawyer, the property has long been sought after because it connects with other conservation land in the area of Ballard Pond.

"It will help preserve the integrity and sustainability of the Ballard Pond watershed and will also prevent

the construction of 10 more potential single family housing units," Conservation Commission Chairman Neil Wetherbee said.

Commission members have been seeking to purchase the land for years. Vice Chair Paul Dionne said he remembers when discussion began on the parcel 24 years ago.

The land is near the Ballard Pond State Forest and abuts other properties that have already been conserved.

The 78 acres runs along 1,700 feet of New Hampshire Recreation Trail, Wetherbee said during a presentation on the property.

It is also less than 800 feet, across a wetlands property, from the 140-acre Gunther Nelson property, which

the town holds conservation easement on; and 1,300 feet from 68 acres that make up the Ballard Pond State Forest, which is home to the Taylor Mill, Wetherbee said.

"In the world of conservation, connectivity is the name of the game and acquiring parcels that are in close proximity to each other is always the most desirable option," Wetherbee said. "The acquisition of this parcel will create a wholly connected, 200 plus acre conservation property-one of the larger areas in town," Wetherbee said.

Conservation Commissioners voted unanimously at their Feb. 13 meeting to approve spending a total of \$215,697 toward the pur-

continued on page 5



ALL FIRED UP Before Environmental Studies students could get away for winter vacation, Maple Sugar Season got into full swing. The warm temperatures last week signaled the start of a very productive beginning. Julie Carbone, a Pinkerton senior, loads up wood in the school's evaporator during the first boil in the sugar shack on campus. See more photos page 8. Photo by Chris Paul

Exit 4A, Rail Trail Discussed At Forum For Business Owners

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

Planning for proposed projects such as Exit 4A and the Rail Trail is essential for the economic development of Derry, local leaders agreed during a recent forum for business owners.

The Derry Economic

Development Advisory Committee held the open forum on Wednesday, Feb. 22 in the Cable Studio inside the Municipal Center. The program included an update from local legislators on current bills moving through the Legislature.

State Rep. John O'Connor gave an update on a call

by some legislators to shift the oversight from the federal government over the State of New Hampshire to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

The move comes after the EPA has failed to approve a storm-water per-

continued on page 2

New Derry Farmers Market Launching This Summer

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

Organizers of a new Farmers Market are hoping to draw more than 1,000 people downtown every Wednesday through the summer to help spark economic development.

A corps of dedicated people is striving to make the launch of the Derry Homegrown Farm & Artisan Market a success, said Terri Pastori, chairman of the Derry Economic Development Advisory Committee.

"We are committed to making this a really vibrant market," she said Wednesday night during a forum for

business owners at the Cable Studio in the Municipal Center.

The market will operate from land donated by the Benson family and run for 16 weeks from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. every Wednesday from June 7 to Sept. 20, she said.

"We are grateful for the Bensons for letting us use that space; it's huge," Pastori said.

A farmers market is returning this summer after a year's hiatus. The last market operated out of land owned by the Benson family along Broadway in the summers of 2014 and 2015. The market didn't run last year after Beverly Ferrante, the

director, left her post after the summer of 2015, according to officials.

To finalize the proposal, councilors agreed at their Jan. 24 meeting to waive a small fee that Derry previously charged to vendors.

Pastori and other members of a committee have been working on the project to reestablish a market for almost a year.

Pastori said a diverse group of farmers, bakers and PTA members formed the group last March to create a Farmers Market unique to Derry.

As part of the arrangement, Pastori said farmers have agreed to pay a small

fee of about \$10 to \$15 to the committee for advertising. She said the group is going through the process of becoming a non-profit, which will not be completed until after the summer.

The new market will have an entertainment component every week, she said. And committee member Jenna Paradise is working on lining up activities geared toward children.

During the forum, Conservation Commission Chairman Neil Wetherbee, who is involved in helping launch the Farmers Market, said the project just received state certification.

He said organizers

would like to draw from 1,000 to 1,500 people to the new market every Wednesday.

"That would be our goal to have a successful market," Wetherbee said. "That can represent big plusses for the downtown businesses; it can represent big plusses for the market. So we are going to be getting out there and really trying to make some things happen."

Economic Development Advisory Committee member Gordon Graham asked about the possibility of having concerts by the Recreation Department, which are typically scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays in

the summer, to coincide with the Farmers Market on Wednesdays.

In addition, parking was discussed and Pastori said plans call for using signage to direct those attending the Farmers Market down Manning to parking in the Municipal Center lot.

"There is a lot of parking downtown so our job will be to make sure there is signage there and we are directing people on where to go," she said.

For more information, visit www.derryhomegrown.org or go to the Facebook page.

Exit 4A

continued from page 1

mit dating to 2010, O'Connor said. Under current storm-water permitting, development along Interstate 93 is limited to three lanes, instead of four, O'Connor said.

"We are still waiting for EPA to give us our final permit," O'Connor said. "The objective is, and the consensus is, of a lot of legislators up there, to break away from the Federal EPA and that

way the DES will work with us."

O'Connor, who is chairman of the House Environment and Agriculture Committee said a bill has come forward, with a study, to examine the possibility of having NHDES "absorb the EPA responsibilities for the State of New Hampshire."

O'Connor said that EPA is still relying on old data from 2010 on such storm-water permitting related items as the use of road salt by businesses. Through better technology, there have

been reductions in the amount of road salt that is applied on area roads.

"It's based on old, old data and none of the new technology and none of the things we put into place here in town as far as the road salt reduction that's taking place," O'Connor said. "So they are still chastising us for something that happened many, many years ago."

Also in the forum, the progress of the Exit 4A project was discussed. State Rep. Brian Chirichiello said plans are under way to begin construction in 2019.

Derry's cost for the project is capped at \$5 million because of a prior lawsuit that also involved Londonderry and Boston North, a development firm, according to officials. The suit was filed in the early 1990s, according to officials.

Chirichiello said the project is likely to be "fast-tracked" by the state and Derry needs to plan in advance for the construction.

"We need to make sure we are all on the same page there," he said.

Planned to reduce traffic

congestion on Route 102, Exit 4A also ties into helping with economic development downtown.

"This time we need to focus on the downtown because that's the original reason we are doing Exit 4A," Chirichiello said.

Another proposed project, the Rail Trail, is also critical for sparking economic development downtown, according to officials.

Also referred to as the Bike Path, the project includes two proposed segments, with the first running from Hood Park to North High Street.

The second northerly segment would run from just north of North High Street to the Derry-Londonderry town line.

Running through private property, the second seg-

ment would require a lot more work than the first segment, including replacement of a culvert and bridge deck repair, according to officials.

Construction on the first segment of the project has been delayed until a plan to modify Hood Pond Dam is approved by NHDES, according to officials. DES changed the hazard classification of the Hood Pond Dam, requiring the structure to meet a higher standard.

When asked about the status of the project, Town Administrator David Caron said the town is waiting on the engineering study to be complete on Hood Dam.

"Once that's done, we will sit down with DES and develop the scope for improvements and time frame," Caron said.

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Derry Schools Use Blizzard Bags Following Storms

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

Following a series of powerful snow storms that hit the area, the Derry Cooperative School District has experienced a number of interruptions and cancellations this winter.

There have been three snow days and so-called blizzard bags have been used three times for a total of six missed school days, according to administrators.

"We've had an active snow day situation this winter," Nelson said at the Feb.

21 School Board meeting.

Nelson added, "We've also had five delayed openings and two evenings we've cancelled after school and evening activities and those evenings were leading into the snow storms the next day. We knew in advance after school we were having an impending snow storm so we canceled the evening activities."

Blizzard bags are assignments students complete at home on days school is cancelled because of inclement weather or other emergencies. Assignments are due

the day students return from a Blizzard Bag Day. But students may be given an additional five school days to finalize their work, according to officials.

The first snow day occurred on Dec. 12, Nelson said.

Blizzard Bags were used on Jan. 24, with 87 percent of students completing the assignments; Feb. 7, with an 89 percent completion rate; and Feb. 9, with an 87 percent completion rate.

Because there were six days of school lost to the storms, administrators are

considering adding three days to the calendar so Monday June 19 would be the tentative last day of school, Nelson said.

"Right now looking at June 19 as the last day and we are really hoping not to miss more days of school, because we've missed a lot," Nelson said.

Because so much snow had accumulated, school was recently canceled because First Student, the bus company that the district uses, wasn't able to dig out busses in time for the start of school, Nelson said.

Some School Board members said they were concerned about the effectiveness of the blizzard bags as a substitute for school. School Board Chairman Dan McKenna said he was especially concerned with the lower grades.

"I'm concerned that the blizzard bags aren't a good substitute for a day of school," McKenna said. "They are not right now really incorporating the curriculum—math. It's not the same stuff they are doing in the classrooms, so it's not a substitute for that."

He added, "My own experience in talking to other parents is that those aren't effective," McKenna said.

Nelson said there are other school districts that don't use blizzard bags for the reasons McKenna mentioned.

Plans call for conducting a parent and teacher survey on the effectiveness of the program, followed by a report to the School board in June, Nelson said. A decision could then be made on whether to continue with the program, she said.

Pinkerton Completes State Compliance Review For Special Education

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
NUTFIELD NEWS

With regard to the writing of measurable goals for Individualized Education Plans, Pinkerton Academy has made significant progress, according to administrators.

Pinkerton recently completed their compliance review for special education program approval from the New Hampshire Education

Department, Bureau of Special Education. And the review went well compared to previous reviews, said Christopher Kellan, assistant superintendent for student services.

"What I had heard from the report from the bureau so far was that there were no areas of corrective action needed in writing measurable goals on any of the case studies that they reviewed at Pinkerton," Kellan said at

the School Board's Feb. 21 meeting.

He added, "And that's significant compared to two and three years ago."

Everywhere else in the state, he said, essentially in writing measurable goals for IEPs was the number one area of compliance that districts were failing to meet.

"It's not whether or not the IEP is being implemented that's being measured unless there's a concern or

evidence that it's not," he said, adding, "It's about whether or not all of the procedures are being followed correctly with respect to the meetings but also with the IEPs themselves, the actual required elements are written correctly."

He said there's been a big shift by the state in what are considered to be measurable goals and how they are written. Over about the last

five years the New Hampshire Department Bureau of Education has had a keen focus on first making a decision about what a measurable goal looks like, he said.

"They provided a lot of technical assistance about that which we've participated in, there's a lot of debate about it around the state on what is a measurable goal," he said.

Kellan said during the

latest review, Pinkerton was able to benefit from a good collaborative effort between all of the sending towns and the high school.

He said a final report hasn't been issued yet, but the initial report from the bureau was extremely positive.

"So we are Looking forward to very few corrective actions as a result of that," Kellan said.

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Editorial

Spring Cleaning

No doubt you've been feeling it in the air these past few days—Spring is just around the corner now. Soon this unseasonable warmth will be the norm as we see more and more people venture out in t-shirts, shorts and flip flops, and the snow will be gone for good (at least, until next winter). But as the snow begins to melt, it will reveal with its departure a less attractive side of the season.

As more of the sidewalks and roadsides become visible again, we'll be treated to a view of all the refuse that has been buried through the winter, as well as the latest beer cans and fast food wrappers tossed out the windows of passing vehicles. This "Blooming Garbage", as some may call it, serves as a reminder of just how messy (and careless) our fellow citizens can be.

The snow cover has helped to mask just about all of that, but soon it all will be laid bare in all its ugliness. Soon enough, spring will officially be here, and we'll all feel that urge to get outside for a little spring-cleaning. We'll be thinking about planting, and we'll be ready to spruce up our yards and our neighborhoods.

But in the meantime, there's no reason to let things slide as we wait out the remainder of winter and the possibility of last-minute snowstorms. There's a lot we can do before the regular clean-up time arrives.

For instance, we can instill in all our

friends and family that those old Dunkins cups and to-go bags should be thrown in the waste bin, not out the window of cars and trucks. For convenience's sake, a small garbage bag can be kept in the car for such things until they can be discarded in the trash or recycling at home.

And speaking of recycling, it doesn't serve any purpose to stuff every awkward-sized plastic bottle into the recycling container so that the tops cannot be closed and the contents balance all over reach other. With all the blustery winds we've had as of late, those bottles and other items will go tumbling through the mud and remaining snow banks, or into your neighbors' driveways. It's unattractive, inconvenient, and it defeats the purpose of collecting items for recycling. So if you need multiple recycling containers, use them, or compact your plastic and cardboard containers so that you are able to actually fit a week's worth of recycling, if possible.

With snow banks shrinking along the side of the roads, you can get an early start on beautifying your area of town by picking up debris and trash here and there. If spring rains come in strong this year, all that mess needs to get out of the way anyway, and culverts have to be kept clear. Save yourself some potential trouble and clear the culverts now, if the snowmelt has left them visible.

Spring should be beautiful—and if we all do our part, we can keep it that way.

Letters

Dave Granese for Councilor

To the editor:
I'm writing to support Dave Granese for Councilor-at-Large. Dave is a honest, kind and hard working man who will work hard for the citizens of Derry.

Dave has many years of experience with assisting others, listening to issues and concerns and putting them first. There is no doubt as Councilor-at-Large, he will be a voice in the community for the people of Derry. Dave has experience with working with Veterans and assisting those in need. Please vote for Dave Granese, for Councilor-at-Large. Dave is all about making the Town of Derry a better place to live and work.
Thank you
Lee Francescone
Derry

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

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Spirits High

It was spirit week at Gilbert H. Hood Middle School last week, with each day having a different theme. At right, Alexandra Ange, eighth-grade literature teacher, and her student Ava Georgacopoulos, are twin tourists for Twin Day. Above, Rylee Burke, Ma' Khai Bowen, and Brenna Kimball get in the spirit on Throwback Thursday.

Courtesy photos



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Candidates

continued from page 1

County Sheriff's Department, in Boston and is currently a deputy sheriff /captain.

Granese said he is running to bring town government "back to where it should be, representing the people. I want to stand up for our citizens and fight for their concerns to make Derry a better place to live and work"

He added, "I want to bring transparency to our town. I will work with all town boards and committees to improve property taxes and economic development. I want to assist our elderly and veterans with housing and address their economic concerns. I would like to collaborate with the school board regarding tax reductions and work to restrict multi-unit developments."

As to what he brings to the table, he said, "I bring 32 years of civic / government involvement working in the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. In that time, I was part of the design built team for the new House of Correction, keeping my fiscal budget in line, managed staffing levels of over 600

people, writing contracts, writing grants, being on the policy review committee, treasurer of AFSCME Local 3967 to list a few."

In addition, Granese cited his 11 years of experience on the town's planning board, serving for eight years as chairman. "During that time, I have brought total transparency to the meetings by allowing the public to speak during workshops, after the public hearing is closed; I worked on the zoning and land use bringing it up to date. I am also a member of the Net Zero Task Force, whose mission is to explore and achieve cost effective solutions for reduced energy and water use on town-controlled property. My previous experience, honesty and integrity make me the candidate to make Derry a better place to live and work. While one person can make a difference, it takes teamwork for ultimate success. I plan on doing the work. Thank you for your vote of support on March 14."

Council candidate Wetherbee, 52, running for the District 3 Council seat.

Wetherbee has lived in town for 16 years. He said has been active in local government over 10 years, serv-



Joshua Bourdon is running to retain his Town Council seat.



Neil Weatherbee is running for the District Three Town Council seat.

ing for six years as a Town Councilor for District 3 from 2008 to 2014; Derry Conservation Commission prior to and after Council years, liaison for all 6 years on Council – Current Chair of the Commission. In addition, he said he was active in signature gathering to peti-



David Granese is running for the At-Large Town Council seat



Marc Flattes is running for the District Three Town Council seat.

tion Council's budget actions in 2015 and subsequent fundraising for legal action that gave residents the chance to vote on budget issues. One of 3 signatories to that legal action.

When asked why he is running, Wetherbee said, "Derry is where I've chosen to live and raise my family. I want to work to make this the best community it can

be. I know there are a lot of great people in our Town and I want to work to encourage more community involvement both at the political and civic level. I want to see the Council working more in conjunction with both our school district and Pinkerton Academy, both of which are major assets to the community. I also want to see the Council working more with our State delegation on issues that can help us at the local level such as education funding and state pension funding that burden local taxpayers. The downshifting of costs from the state to the local level is a significant driver of our property tax rates."

When asked what he brings to the table, Wetherbee answered, "I have an excellent working knowledge of the Town's \$40+ million-dollar budget. Equally as important, I have an intimate knowledge of the services that budget provides to its residents and what those services mean to our community. I have excellent working relationships with many of the department heads and staff and can work with them towards long term goals and consistent improvement. As a small business owner I know how seemingly small decisions can have big

impacts both positive and negative. I believe I can work well with fellow Councilors, our state delegation, school district, Pinkerton Academy and local business owners and residents towards common sense goals and objectives that can help our community grow and thrive."

Flattes, 45, who is also running for the District 3 seat, is married and has a daughter. He works as a bulk customer representative.

As to why he is running, Flattes said, "I have been serving our community over the years on several of our town committees. I have seen our community go through many changes over those years, and I seek to continue my hard work for you the residents of Derry."

He said the community is facing many challenges, including, taxes, drug addiction, the rising cost of education and economic development.

"As a community we can overcome these challenges by reducing our cost," he said, adding that "creation of revenue from economic development" would also benefit the community.

Flattes added, "I'm not going to tell you how to vote, my only request is that you get out and vote and ask tough questions of those you elect."

Sawyer

continued from page 1

chase of the parcel.

The Commission members also agreed to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Southeast Land Trust to hold the conservation easement on the property following approval by the council.

At the Feb. 21 meeting,

councilors agreed on a proposal to spend \$250,000 from the unassigned fund balance in a supplemental appropriation toward the purchase of the property. The overall project cost is \$465,697. In addition, councilors also approved letter of understanding between the town and the Southeast Land Trust.

The Council previously

agreed to present the supplemental appropriation of \$250,000, to come from the unassigned fund balance, to a public hearing for input and action, according to a staff report prepared by Town Administrator David Caron. The funds will be combined with the already approved \$215,697 from the Conservation Commission.

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Energy Efficiency Project For Derry Schools Moving Forward

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

Work is progressing on a new \$9.3 million energy efficiency program in the Derry Cooperative School District, according to officials.

Two new energy efficient boilers have been installed and are up and running at East Derry Memorial Elementary School, said Business said Manager Jane Simard, who gave an update on the program at the School Board's Feb. 21

meeting.

In addition, school district officials are meeting with Honeywell representatives to work on the placement of propane tanks at East Derry and South Range Elementary School, Simard said. At South Range, the best sight seems to be in the back of the property, on the right-hand side, she said.

Even though the school district will be closed for the break this week, Honeywell employees will still be at schools working on lighting

and other projects, Simard said.

Work is also progressing on the installation and set up devices that are plugged into an outlet to control the power of large devices like printers, vending machines, Simard said. The devices are programmed through Wi-Fi.

After experiencing a number of problems with boilers, Honeywell was selected by the school district thorough a competitive bidding process in 2014. A comprehensive energy audit

was conducted to determine how energy loss was affecting costs, according to Honeywell representatives.

An initial project by Honeywell involved converting boilers at Grinnell and Hood schools from oil to natural gas. This project was completed last year.

The initial project was followed by the current program or Phase II, to make capital improvements for greater energy efficiency for Ernest P. Barka Elementary School, East Derry Memori-

al Elementary School, Grinnell Elementary School, Gilbert H. Hood Middle School and West Running Brook Middle School. In addition, a program that includes energy saving projects and temperature control improvements will be added to South Range Elementary and Derry Village Elementary schools.

In addition, the plan includes new energy saving programs, such as the LED lighting, and software improvements to help lower

costs. And the project will improve ventilation and heating systems while improving controls on boiler systems, according to officials.

The district has already reduced next year's utilities budget by \$440,000 because of the Honeywell project, School Board Chairman Dan McKenna said in a Dec. 13 meeting. The project has a 16-year payout, he said, adding, "But it's a benefit that we are already starting to see and have in our budget for next year."

Public Hearing Scheduled On Proposed \$100,000 Transfer For Exit 4A Work

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

Councilors have scheduled a public hearing for March 7 on a proposal to transfer \$100,000 for technical work on the controversial Exit 4A project.

The councilors agreed to

schedule the hearing in their Tuesday, Feb. 21 meeting. If approved, the funds would reimburse the New Hampshire Department of Transportation for contractually obligated technical services on Exit 4A, according to officials.

Dating back to at least the 1980s, there have been a number of starts and stops with the project mainly due to cost escalations, according to officials.

Derry's cost for the project is capped at \$5 million because of a prior lawsuit

that also involved Londonderry and Boston North, a development firm, according to officials. The suit was filed in the early 1990s, according to officials.

Derry has already spent about \$1.75 million on Exit 4A, according to officials.

Some local officials have praised the proposed project as a way to improve traffic flow to the town's beleaguered downtown. But others have criticized the proposal, saying it will instead divert traffic away from downtown and harm the local economy.

Designed as an alternate to downtown Derry, Exit 4A would include construction of a 1-mile connecting road from the interchange off Interstate 93 to Ross' North High Street and Folsom Road and Tsienneto Road.

On July 14, 2015, the model of the Exit 4A project changed when former NHDOT Commissioner Christopher Clement told the Town Council that

NHDOT would serve as the project sponsor, Public Works Director Michael Fowler wrote in a staff report. In addition, NHDOT would seek federal funds for construction of the new interchange and collector roads. Exit 4A is included as part of a NHDOT statewide plan that is scheduled to be completed in 2022, Fowler wrote.

Derry entered into an agreement with Londonderry and NHDOT on Dec. 1, 2015, committing to move forward on the Exit 4A project. Both towns are responsible for engineering costs related to generating the Environmental Impact Study. In addition, the towns are required to reimburse NHDOT for environmental services.

After some interruptions in work over the past several years, the plan calls for CLD Engineers Inc. to finish the environmental impact study of the project so the work can proceed, according to

officials.

Known as Engineering Amendment 7, the environmental impact study plan is the most critical aspect of the project, Fowler said.

Fowler said included in the scope of work in the EIS are a variety of topics that will be addressed, such as preliminary engineering, noise, water resources, air quality, cultural resources, wetlands and vernal pools.

The total cost of Amendment 7 is \$2,333,197, with Derry and Londonderry each paying half of the cost. Derry's share is \$1,166,598, Fowler said.

Staff is recommending that \$100,000 be reassigned from the \$1,166,598 supplemental appropriation for Engineering Amendment #7 on the Exit 4A project, Fowler wrote.

The Council meeting is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. in the third-floor meeting room of the Municipal Center.

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Pinkerton Student in the Business of Maple Syrup

MELISSA BETH RUIZ
NUTFIELD NEWS

When he's not working on his grades, Pinkerton Academy Sophomore Ryan Neal finds himself coming home each day to a sticky situation.

While many his age play sports, practice for plays, or take part in other extracurricular activities, Neal is hard at work after school in his yard producing gallons of syrup for his business, Ryan's Sugar Shack, out of Chester.

Neal first started working with maples four years

ago, and said that his interest was peaked when spending time with a friend of his who worked with syrup at the time. According to Neal, his friend did the work for two years and decided that it wasn't for him, but Neal kept expanding on his new venture.

Over the years, young Neal has slowly but surely added to his business by purchasing equipment when he had the money for it. The first two years, Neal said that his parents had loaned him the funds for the necessary tools to help work more efficiently, and he was able

to pay them back after those sugar seasons. He is now making enough to pay for his own equipment, while being able to make a profit off of his hard work.

When he first started out a number of years ago, Neal would haul buckets of sap from his backyard into a holding tank to make his syrup. Now he is able to work a bit more efficiently by pumping the sap with a vacuum tubing system from the trees and into a holding tank. This season, Neal says that after he arrives home from school, he spends the hours between Noon and

10:30 boiling sap, while in between that and in the mornings maintaining his tubing system.

Since the trees that he works with are red maples, the sap takes longer to boil. Many natural maple syrup bottles come from sugar maples, which are quicker to get syrup from than Neal's trees. Red maples typically take 60 gallons of sap to make a gallon of syrup, whereas their sugar counterparts only take 40 gallons of sap to do so.

With only occasional help from his parents, Neal is able to produce around 250-300 gallons of maple sap a day.

When he first began, he only tapped two trees, and each year he added a few more until this year, where he has tapped about 300.

Neal started his syruping business his second year in practice when he had worked with roughly 40 trees.

"I didn't make too much money that year," Neal said, but that didn't deter him.

Neal said that he took a half a year of forestry last year at Pinkerton, and next year he plans on taking double forestry to help him with



Pinkerton Academy Sophomore and Chester resident Ryan Neal has been quite busy keeping up with the sap that the maples trees on his family's property has been producing. His evaporator is set up in the backyard. At right, he is shown measuring the sugar content in his syrup with a refractometer. *Photos by Chris Paul*

his business.

it."

As far as taking this business into the coming years,

"I'm going to see where this takes me," Neal said. "It's...kind of just a side job right now, maybe after high school I'll see if I can grow

Those who would like to lean more about Ryan's Sugar Shack, or would be interested in trying some of his organic syrup may visit his website, ryansugar-chack.com.

School Officials Meet With Pinkerton Academy On Possible Autism Program

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

School District officials recently met with Pinkerton Academy administrators to consider possibly adding a program for children with Autism at the high school.

Assistant Superintendent for Student Services Christopher Kellan said district officials met with Headmaster Griffin Morse and other officials on possibly adding the partner classroom program from the New England Center For Children. Representatives from NECC also attended the meeting, Kellan said during the School Board's Feb. 21 meeting.

While the deal isn't final-

ized yet, Kellan said, "At this point Pinkerton Academy is very much in favor of starting a New England partner classroom for next school year."

The contract hasn't been signed yet but Kellan said he and the other representatives left the meeting excited about the possibility of starting the program at Pinkerton.

NECC provides school districts services for children with autism that are typically found in out-of-district placements, according to its website. The program provides individualized programs for students with NECC staff members while allowing the students to par-

ticipate in their community school, according to NECC.

An NECC program is currently in place in the school district.

The level of service that New England Center provides has proven to be very successful for us in the district," Kellan said.

NECC decides the criteria for all students entering the program, he said.

At Pinkerton Academy, Kellan said there are about 90 students with a diagnosis of autism.

And in the school district there are approximately 170 students with autism identified as the primary disability, he said.

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Pinkerton Sugar Shack Gets Started on Early Production



Forestry and Environmental Studies teacher Michelle Mize and her students got extremely busy last week as area temperatures rose to start the maple sugar sap running from area trees. The department usually starts producing maple syrup after the winter vacation, but when nature calls... Students gathered buckets of sap, fired up the school's evaporator and began boiling their first batch last week.

Photos by Chris Paul



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DERRY SPORTS

At Regular Season's End, Injuries Hammer PA Girl Cagers

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

By just about any measure, the Pinkerton Academy girls' basketball squad had an exceptional 2016-17 regular season.

The Lady Astros headed into their much-anticipated final regular season game against the talented Bishop Guertin Lady Cardinals of Nashua with a superb 16-1 record and 10 consecutive victories.

However, the PA squad was stung hard by the injury of court-general Amanda Lemire in the wake of their second-to-last game of the regular campaign against Trinity of Manchester days

earlier, which was a pleasing win for the academy side. And the locals also lost junior swing player Cydney Lessard following that contest.

Standout junior guard Lemire's return from a stress fracture to her right foot is doubtful with the state tournament up ahead, and Lessard is suffering from a high-ankle sprain.

So both of those players were out of uniform for the huge Friday, Feb. 24 game against a BG crew which stepped into play with a great 15-1 record and 14 consecutive victories to its credit. Hence, a Pinkerton victory that night became doubtful at best.

But when the Pinkerton/Guertin game was actually played, things could not conceivably have gone much worse for the home-standing Lady Astros.

It was still a competitive game into the second half, at which point the match turned into a lopsided, 72-30 blowout for the visiting Nashuans, who closed out their regular season with a glittering 16-1 record and 15 consecutive successes.

And the Lady Astros, who finished up at 16-2, had injury added to insult when senior forward Taylor Frost had to leave the game - in considerable pain - due to a right ankle injury.

Guertin led 20-10 after

one period and 36-24 at halftime, but Pinkerton was still in the game as the second half commenced.

The Lady Cardinals outscored Pinkerton by a 25-0 tally in the third quarter and a 36-6 margin overall in the second half, as coach Buskey and her team had to swallow hard, remember that the loss was just one game, and understand that they'd still get a first-round bye in this week's Division I tournament.

"The greatest news for us is the bye," said coach Lani Buskey. "We have a week to make sense of this new madness and figure something out without these players."

Three nights prior to the Guertin game, the academy crew had bumped its winning streak up to 10 consecutive games with a 63-49 besting of the host Trinity Pioneers in Manchester.

In that Tuesday, Feb. 21 contest, Pinkerton won every period but the third, grasping modest leads of 19-15 after one quarter, 36-31 at the half, and 50-46 stepping into the final stanza.

The Lady Astros then



Senior standout Tori Overko attempts to drive the baseline against a BG opponent during Pinkerton's recent rough loss. Photo by Chris Pantazis

outscored their hosts by a 13-4 margin in quarter four in putting away the win.

Sophomore Brooke Kane led the PA charge with 19 points, and Amanda Lemire - likely playing in her last game of the 2016-17 campaign - netted 17 important points, including a pair of three-pointers.

The Astros learned on

Monday morning that they'd get a first-round bye in the tourney thanks to their second seeding by the NHIAA, and they'll play host to the winner of the Wednesday night opening-round game between Merrimack (7) and Manchester Central (10) in a quarterfinal-round battle in Derry Saturday night Feb. 4 at 7 p.m.



Senior Send Off

Lady Astro senior basketball players, from left, Madison Lolicata, Tori Overko, Taylor Frost, Julia Bousquet, and Courtney Velho were honored on senior night prior to their team's recent game with Bishop Guertin. The game was the teams final home game of the regular season.

Photo by Chris Pantazis



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PA Wrestlers Fahey and McLaughlin Advance to New Englands

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

Showing plainly that the future of Pinkerton Academy wrestling looks bright, underclassmen Sterling McLaughlin and Robby Fahey tallied top-three finishes at the New Hampshire Meet of Champions at Nashua High School South last weekend to advance to the regional championships later this week.

Freshman McLaughlin placed third in his 182-pound weight class and sophomore Fahey bagged third in the 220-pound division to qualify for the 52nd annual New England Interscholastic Wrestling Championships at the Providence Career and Technical Academy in Providence this Friday and Saturday.

All in all, some seven Astro grapplers competed at the MOC's last Saturday the 25th, and four of them walked away from Nashua South with medals in their possessions.

Along with the successes of McLaughlin and Fahey, Pinkerton had 138-pound Division I champ Derek Wilson finish fifth and 170-

pounder Kyle Setzer equal his D-I performance by also claiming a fifth.

The academy crew also had Kris DiNitto, Walker Stinson, and Cam Macro compete at the Meet of Champs.

Speaking of McLaughlin and Fahey - both of whom will make the drive down to Rhode Island to compete at the New Englands - PA coach Dave Rhoads expressed plenty of pride.

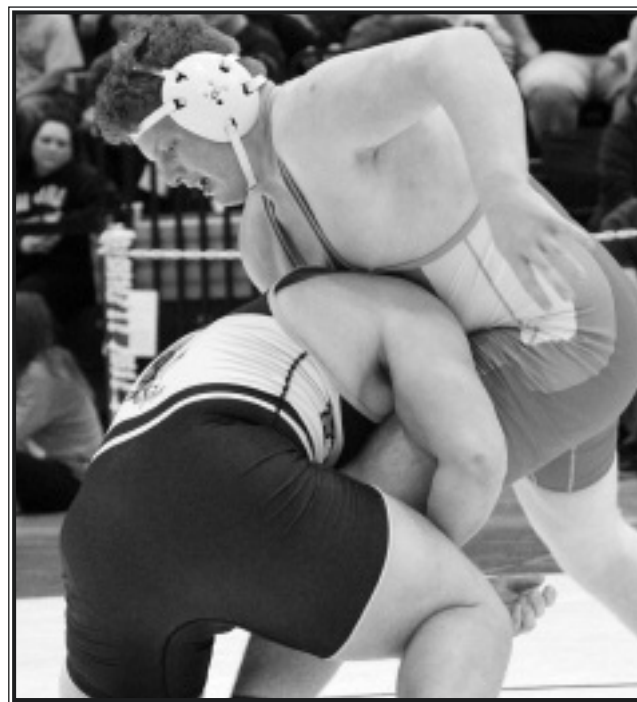
"They both had extremely tough draws in their brackets, and both had to wrestle back through the consolations to win," said Rhoads. "Even though they both had difficult days they performed well enough to advance, and that's a testament to their hard work. And they're both only going to get better."

Coach Rhoads and his charges also had to be pleased with the fact that they finished an extremely strong fourth as a group in the 37-team MOC competition. To the surprise of precisely nobody, the Timberlane Regional juggernaut from Timberlane won the team title for the 14th straight year.



Pinkerton freshman wrestler Sterling McLaughlin qualified for the New England Regionals with a top-three finish at the state Meet of Champions in Nashua last weekend.

Photos by Chris Paul



PA sophomore wrestling stalwart Robby Fahey is all lined up to compete in this weekend's New England Regionals after his top-three performance at the New Hampshire MOC's at Nashua South last weekend.

Pinkerton Bowlers Compete and Excel At State's Indy Tournament in Manchester

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

Pinkerton Academy's 2016-17 bowling squad had its campaign officially end Saturday, Feb. 25 with five Astros competing at the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 1 State Individual

Championships and Medal Flight on the Spare Time Lanes in Manchester.

PA's Keenan Nash, Austin Caux, David Pierson, Ben Tripodi, and Brian Wilkinson tested their mettle as members of a strong field of 64 bowlers and acquitted themselves well.

In the three-game open-

ing round, fifth-seeded junior Nash rolled games of 172, 138, and 168. Senior Caux (the 19th seed) rolled a 169, a 147, and a 112, and his fellow 12th grader Pierson (the eighth seed) rolled a 195, a 162, and a 172.

Those scores, allowed Pierson to make the cut for the single-elimination round of 16 and faced off against Ryan Gentes of Goffstown. Gentes defeated Pierson 200-167 and moved on to the round of eight.

Also in that three-game

first round, Pinkerton had senior Tripodi (the 51st seed) roll games of 119, 203, and 142, and his fellow senior Wilkinson (the 57th seed) roll games of 127, 147, and 144.

Like teammate Pierson, Pinkerton's Tripodi made the cut into the strong round of 16 single-elimination competition and faced off against Austin Slater of Raymond. Slater defeated the Astro veteran 212-127 and moved on to the round of eight.

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Astro Icemen Drop Four of Final Five Games of Regular Season

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

In the wake of a 2015-16 season in which it won just four games, the Pinkerton Academy ice hockey squad's 2016-17 campaign has already been a big success under first-year coach Sam Littlefield.

But losing four of their final five games recently was absolutely not the way Littlefield and his charges wanted to end the 2016-17 regular season. So the Astros

step into the Division I tournament feeling a tad less confident than they would have hoped would be the case.

After defeating the previously undefeated Bedford High Bulldogs on Monday, Feb. 20 to bust a two-game losing streak, the Astros dropped decisions to Bishop Guertin of Nashua and Manchester Central later in the week in finishing up at 11-6-1 in tough D-I.

The Astro squad was blanked by Guertin by a 6-0

tally at the Skate 3 Arena in Tyngsboro, Mass. on the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 22, despite the fact that PA standout goalie Dakota Robinson made some 32 saves.

At the other end of the rink, the BG keeper only had to make 10 stops in his side's fourth straight win. Guertin finished the regular campaign at 11-5-2.

The Astros' Senior Night battle with Manchester Central at The Ice Den in Hooksett on Saturday the

25th was far closer from the locals' standpoint. But in dropping a 4-3 decision in overtime, the outcome wasn't what PA wanted at all.

Pinkerton put forth a lackluster effort in the overtime loss despite bagging several leads early.

Nathan Laliberte handed the locals a 1-0 lead, but Central answered shortly thereafter.

Laliberte then potted his second marker of the night to make it a 2-1 game, but the Little Green answered before the close of the stanza.

Central then tallied its first lead of the night a mere 12 seconds into the second period, but Pinkerton responded with Mason Drouin's first varsity goal to knot the score at 3-3.

The third period was scoreless, and the Green - which closed out its regular season by winning three of its last four games in ending up at 8-10 overall - won the contest in the extra stanza.

When asked about the facts that his team dropped four of its last game and wasn't in tip-top form in the Central game, coach Sam Littlefield responded, "I

don't like having lost those games, but the Central game was a good lesson. We didn't have the best game defensively, and Dakota didn't have his best game. So hopefully we can have better performances in the tournament."

The sixth-seeded Astros found out this past Monday morning that their first tournament contest will be a quarter-final-round battle with the number three Salem High Blue Devils at the Salem Icenter this Saturday, Feb. 4, at 8 p.m.

Academy Boy Cagers Split With Trinity and BG, Move to 6-10

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

A blowout victory over the weak Trinity High Pioneers followed by the slimmest of possible losses to the Bishop Guertin Cardinals left longtime Pinkerton boys' basketball coach Peter Rosinski and his Astros to contemplate their 6-10 record in Division I stepping into this, the final week of the 2016-17 regular season.

The academy cagers absolutely overwhelmed the winless Trinity troop from Manchester by a 69-38 tally when those contingents met in Derry last Tuesday, Feb. 21.

The hosts found themselves up by seven points at 18-11 at the conclusion of one quarter, and by outscoring their guests by a 15-6 margin in the second period the Astros went to their

locker room up by a full 16 points (33-17) at the half.

The locals then made a Trinity comeback hugely unlikely by outscoring the Queen City contingent by a margin of 23-9 in quarter three.

Joey Merrill and Jay Reynolds each netted 19 points for the hosts in combining to tally 38 of their points, and Nick Bortone contributed nine while Matt Anzivino was good for eight on an evening during which eight Pinkerton players made the score sheet.

However, the academy side ended up with some reasons for frustration on the evening of Friday the 24th when they were narrowly beaten by the home-standing Bishop Guertin Cardinals by a 56-55 score in Nashua.

Pinkerton led 10-6 at the completion of one period, but the locals were then outscored by their hosts by a

21-7 score in the second stanza as Guertin rolled into halftime grasping a 27-17 lead.

However, the Astros were the stronger team in the third quarter by a lot, and they outscored their hosts by an 18-6 margin in that period to carry a slight, 35-33 advantage into the final quarter.

But now 8-8 Guertin was able to grab the victory by outscoring PA 23-20 during that closing stanza.

Bortone had a big night for the Astros, finishing up with 24 points while Merrill contributed a dozen and Reynolds was good for nine.

Coach Rosinski's roster will aim to finish its 2016-17 regular season with an 8-10 record with successes this week at Concord on Tuesday night the 28th, after Nutfield News press time, and then at home against Exeter this Friday evening.

Athletes of the Week

Week of Feb. 20



**Sean Healey, Sophomore,
Unified Basketball**

This skilled 10th grader gave his unified hoop squad all kinds of consistent hard work all season long, helping it enjoy considerable success in the process.



**Alyssa Green, Senior,
Unified Basketball**

A talented 12th grader, Green always put forth plenty of effort throughout the campaign and helped her academy squad to a slim but memorable victory over Alvirne in Hudson.

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Ex-Pinkerton Grid Star T.J. Urbanik Chooses Merrimack College

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

Since missing out on his senior football season of 2015 due to a serious knee injury, former Pinkerton Academy gridiron star T.J. Urbanik has done one truly bang-up job of turning the lemons fate handed him into sweet lemonade.

The 2016 Pinkerton grad, who also starred in indoor and outdoor track and field at the academy, proved to himself and everyone else concerned that that knee was strong and ready to go by enjoying an award-winning season for the Phillips-Andover Academy

grid squad last fall. And with that task accomplished, Urbanik announced last week that he will be taking his ample football skills forward to Merrimack College in North Andover, Mass. this coming autumn and receiving some scholarship dollars to do so.

The former Pinkerton gridiron all-stater, whose dad Todd is a long-time physical education teacher at PA, plans to study sports medicine at the Bay State College. And he is all kinds of juiced to be attending the school after also weighing the possibilities of choosing Dartmouth College, Boston College, U-Mass Amherst,

and the University of New Hampshire.

"Merrimack really has everything I want, so it really wasn't a tough decision," said the younger Urbanik. "I met with the players and the coach and liked everything I saw, so I'm really excited about going there."

Urbanik gained renown and the fear of opposing teams during his seasons as a fast and smart running back for Pinkerton veteran football coach Brian O'Reilly during the 2012, 2013, and 2014 seasons. He and his teammates made it to Division I title games in each of those three seasons but had to deal with the frus-



Former Pinkerton Academy football and track and field star T.J. Urbanik has decided upon Merrimack College as his next landing spot following a highly-productive year at Phillips-Andover Academy in Massachusetts.

tration of losing championship battles with Exeter in 2012 and then Concord in 2013.

But Urbanik and the Astros absolutely hammered the Bedford High Bulldogs by a 37-0 tally at UNH during the fall of 2014 to lessen the sting of those earlier defeats. And the talented back sat right at the center of the powerful PA offense and its success.

But Urbanik had to face the intense frustration of watching his Pinkerton contingent try to repeat as the D-I champion during the football campaign of 2015 with him on the sidelines nursing that knee injury.

However, the PA grad rebounded beautifully to enjoy a superb season for a somewhat lackluster Phillips-Andover grid crew this past fall.

As for the Merrimack College program he joins, the Warriors battled their way through a tough 2016 campaign in which they

went 3-8 overall for fourth-year coach Dan Curran, a UNH graduate who played in the National Football League with the Seattle Seahawks and the New Orleans Saints. The Merrimack College contingent tallied a New England-10 Conference record of 2-7.

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Academy Swimmers Excel

Pinkerton Academy relay standouts - clockwise from the top - Addison Carder-Cannillo, Zach Denbow, Chris Ploss and Christian Nelson, snared a very solid fifth place in the 400-meter freestyle relay during the recent Division I championships at the University of New Hampshire in Durham. The PA team took fifth place overall.

Courtesy photo by Deborah Carder

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Model Railroad

The Seacoast Division of the National Model Railroad Association will hold Derry Fun Nights the second Friday of each month, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 West Broadway, Derry. Topic in the March 10 meeting will be building structures from styrene. Those wanting further information may go to the Division's website at www.seacoastnmra.org/calendar

Garden Club Scholarship

The Derry Garden Club is accepting applications for the 2017 Derry Garden Club \$1,000 Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school student who will be attending an accredited college or university to pursue a course of study related to horticulture, forestry, botany, landscape architecture, natural resources, earth science, environmental science, or any other related field. Information on requirements and applications are available through the guidance offices at Pinkerton Academy and Londonderry High School and at www.derryardenclub.org/20-17.html. Applications must be received by April 1.

Frost's Birthday

A celebration of Robert Frost's birthday will be held Monday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the Derry Public Library. Local historian Rick Holmes will be the speaker. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 432-6140.

Adult Coloring

Coloring nights for adults will be held March 13 and 27 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Derry Public Library. Materials are provided, or attendees can bring their own. For more information, call 432-6140.

Medicare 101

March 15th, from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Learn about Medicare at

library "Medicare 101" will be the topic of a program to be held Wednesday, March 15, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Derry Public Library. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call the library at 432-6140.

Register to vote

The Supervisors of the Checklist for Derry will meet Tuesday, March 7, from 7 to 7:30 p.m. in the Derry Municipal Center. The purpose of the session will be to register new voters receive name, address, and party changes from voters, approve applications for voter registration, and approve changes to the checklist. This is the last opportunity to register before Election Day, March 14. Applications to register to vote or to make changes to voter may be completed with the Town Clerk through March 3. Residents can also register at the polls at the election.

Race for families' futures

The Upper Room will hold its second annual TURFF Road Race Sunday, April 9, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Hackler Gym, Pinkerton Academy. Registration is at 8 a.m. Competitive and non-competitive runners, walkers and walkers with strollers are welcome as individuals, families or groups. Prizes will be awarded for the top child, male, female and team to finish. There will also be music, food and entertainment. To register, sign up at lightboxreg.com/the-upper-room-race-for-families-turff.

Rotary Club

The Derry Rotary Club meets every Thursday at noon at the Marion Gerrish Community Center. If interested in joining please call Nick Norman at 603-432-5549 for more information."

Fight addiction

Narcanon provides screenings and interventions for those struggling with addiction and their families. For more information go to [\[an-intervention.html\]\(http://an-intervention.html\) or call 877-841-5509.](http://narcanon-seacoast.org/blog/the-power-of-</p>
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Parents of Young Children Support Group

The Upper Room offers FROG, Families Reaching Our Goals, a support group for parents and caregivers of toddlers, Wednesdays from 9:15 to 10:45 a.m. in its facility at 36 Tsienneto Road in Derry. For more information or to register, call 437-8477.

Gospel Music

Thomas A. Dorsey, the father of black Gospel Music, will be the topic of a program by local singer Deanna Butler to be held Wednesday, March 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the Derry Public Library. The program is free and open to the public. Registration is requested by calling 432-6140.

Sarah Josepha Hale

In honor of Women's History Month, the Londonderry Women's Club will host a New Hampshire Humanities program on Sarah Josepha Hale Wednesday, March 15, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 West Broadway, Derry. Sharon Wood will portray Ann Wyman Blake speaking of her admiration for Hale. Hale was a New Hampshire native, first female magazine editor, and instrumental in establishing Thanksgiving as a national holiday. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, visit the club's Web site at www.londonderrywomensclub.com

Renew Clothing

Renew Clothing Ministry will be open Saturday, March 4, from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in Calvary Bible Church, Hampstead Road, Derry. Those interested in clothing are asked to arrive by 10 a.m. To make sure the newer clothing is available for everyone, each family is limited to 20 of the newer items, plus a "reasonable amount" of the older ones. The service gives free gently-used apparel to families and individuals on a budget. The service is free and confidential, to residence. Donations of modern clothing in good condition may be placed in the donation bin at any time. The shop does not accept housewares, books, toys or bedding. The ministry is unable to provide tax receipts for donations. No money is asked for or accepted for the clothing. For more information find "Renew Derry" on Facebook, e-mail renewclothing@myfairpoint.net or renewclothing@yahoo.com, or call the church secretary at 434-1516.

Dragon's Tale Comes to Area

The New Hampshire Theatre Factory will present "A Dragon's Tail" Friday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 4 at 2 p.m., & 7:30 p.m. in the Derry Opera House, 29 West Broadway, Derry. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online by visiting www.nhtheatrefactory

Library Offers Fun for Kids

The Derry Public Library offers regular programs for children including: Tuesdays, 4 to 5 p.m., drop-in stories and crafts, ages 5 to 7, no registration; Thursdays, March 9, 16 and 23, 4 to 5 p.m., Spring Into Art Club, registration required beginning Feb. 15; and Thursdays, March 6, 13 and

20, Minecraft Club, registration required beginning Feb. 15. For more information, call the library at 432-6140.

Derry Garden Club

The Derry Garden Club will be holding its March meeting on Friday, Mar. 3, at the Derry Boys and Girls Club, 40 Hampstead Rd., Derry, at 10 a.m.. The meeting will be "Beautiful Habitat Gardens and their Fascinating Inhabitants" featuring speaker, Thomas Berger. He is a naturalist that has traveled the world observing, photographing and painting nature. There will be a slide show and recommendations for plants and typical garden insects. Appetizers and beverages will be provided.

Free Meals

The following free meals are offered in March: March 12, St. Patrick's Day Dinner at Church of the Transfiguration, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 1 Hood Road, Derry, 432-2130; March 16, Dinner at West Running Brook Middle School, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 1 West Running Brook Lane, Derry, 432-1350; March 18, Dinner at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 63 East Broadway, Derry, 434-4767; March 19, Dinner at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 5 to 6:15 p.m., 1 Hood Road, Derry, 432-0004; March 26, Breakfast at Church of the Transfiguration, 9 to 10 a.m., 1 Hood Road, Derry, 432-2130; March 31, Spaghetti Supper at First Parish Congregational Church, 5 to 6:30 p.m., 47 East Derry Road, Derry, 434-0628. Sonshine Soup Kitchen serves a free meal every weeknight from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Rotary Club

The Derry Rotary Club meets every Thursday at 12:15 p.m. at the Marion Gerrish Community Center. Interested

in joining please call Nick Norman at 432-5549 for more information.

Teen & Parent Workshops

The Upper Room, 36 Tsienneto Road, holds the following free weekly support groups and workshops: Hour Power Lunch Time Workshops, Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Topics available on Web site. Parents of Teens, Thursdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Parents of children 0-6, includes playgroup and/or childcare, Wednesdays, 9:15 to 10:45 a.m. Light refreshments and coffee. Teen and Young Parents (up to age 23), Wednesdays, 5 to 7 p.m., includes light dinner and child care. For more information, call 437-8477 or visit www.urteachers.org.

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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.

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