

Nutfield News

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School Board Discusses Facility Study Direction

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

After attending a recent meeting, a School Board member said he has concerns about the direction of the Facilities Committee.

During the School Board's March 7 meeting, Board member Lynn Perkins said he attended a recent session of the committee at the request of a few people who are concerned about the direction of the committee.

"I want to make sure we are going in the right direction," Perkins said. "One of the things that stood out for me is the fact we had a target deadline for when we wanted this done and now that

target deadline is moving."

The Facilities Study Committee was formed to look at enrollments, enrollment trends and where the trends are going in the future.

The multi-year project developed out of a strategic plan that was in response to declining enrollments in the school district, according to officials.

The district has experienced a continued decline in enrollment over the past 10 years, and School Board members are seeking solutions for the district and the community.

In June, the committee concluded phase two of the project with a comprehensive report, which included several scenarios for possi-

bly consolidating.

With the possibility of closing a school as early as the 2019-20 school year, administrators recently provided several scenarios for addressing the district's space needs.

Plans call for developing the best scenario by around June and then looking at an implementation plan that can be incorporated into next year's budget decision, according to officials.

But after attending the recent meeting, Perkins said he is concerned that the project could be delayed.

He added, "I just want to make sure that it is going in the right direction and that it's completed in a timely

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Derry Town Moderator Cancels Planned Audit

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

After saying she planned to conduct an audit of the upcoming election, Town Moderator Mary Till has cancelled those plans.

Till said in an email Friday that she would not be conducting the audit of the March 21 election because of confusion surrounding the issue.

The election has been rescheduled for March 21 because of the March 14 nor'easter.

Till had said during the March 7 council meeting that she planned to conduct a validation audit of a randomly selected machine and race after the election.

"This is an audit to verify that the machines are working as intended and to identify any vulnerabilities," Till said.

In the meeting, Till said she has been in contact with the state attorney general's office, and, unless she is told not to conduct the audit, will proceed as planned.

But those plans changed she said after receiving an email from Assistant Attorney General Brian Buonamano.

"Late last week as fears of a severe nor'easter were mounting, I received an email from Assistant Attorney General Buonamano stating that the opinion about ordering me not to conduct an audit stood even

for a town election," Till said in the email.

Till said Buonamano made the following earlier statement: "We remain concerned that the overall effect of this process would be to create confusion and/or doubt in the count process. We believe that the public should place some level of trust in the voting machines and allow the recount process to do its work as necessary in individual races."

Till responded to the statement by saying, "This despite a federal congressional investigation into Russian interference in our election process."

Adding to the confusion,
continued on page 5



Taking Aim Pinkerton Academy held its annual School-Wide Dodgeball Tournament in the Hackler Gymnasium Thursday, March 16. A total of 19 student teams and one spirited faculty crew competed for bragging rights and medals. The "Fresh Man's" team were narrowly defeated by "Black Ice" in the championship round. Pictured, Junior, Maison D'Amelio on team "Bright" fires at an opponent. See story on page 10.

Photo by Chris Paul

South Range Prepares to Hit the Half Century Mark

MELISSA BETH RUIZ
NUTFIELD NEWS

Just a couple of months after the hundredth day of school, South Range Elementary will be ringing in another milestone.

Friday, April 7th will mark the 50th anniversary of

the school being open. During the day, students will commemorate the occasion with activities inspired by the five decades of students, faculty, and world events that the school has seen, and at night, faculty from years past will have a chance to reconnect and reflect on

their time spent as educators and staff there.

"I'm excited to welcome back former folks," South Range Elementary Principal, Matthew Olsen remarked. "and to have folks kind of reconnect." He also mentioned that some of the

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Slow and Steady Voter Turnout at Local Elections



Although voting day was postponed a week due to the massive snow storm on Tuesday, March 14 the usual modest amount of voters made their way to the polls on Tuesday March 21. Pictured, Josh Bordon, center in top left photo, mans a sign and greets residents at Gilbert H. Hood Middle School which serves District 1 and 4. Above, Derry Police Chief Ed Garone says hello to Dave Granese and his mom Bernice Granese at the District 2 location, Calvary Bible School. At left, Niel Wetherbee, far right, and others greet voters at West Running Brook Middle School, District 3

Photos by Chris Paul

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Pinkerton Academy to Host Career Fair on April 13

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

Open to the public for the first time, the Pinkerton Academy Career Fair is scheduled to run on April 13 at the high school.

The Career Fair draws students who attend to meet with vendors or gain career advice.

"The April 13 Career Fair is now officially open to the public starting at 1 p.m.," Doug Cullen, manager of career services at Pinkerton, said in a news

release.

Cullen said while the Media Center in the Pinkerton Academy, Academy Building as well as the main hallway on the first floor is reserved for just Pinkerton students from 11:30 a.m.-12:45pm, the general public can attend beginning at 1 p.m..

The general public will be arriving starting at 1 p.m. to meet with hiring vendors, attend a resume writing workshop, or have their resume professionally critiqued by the Human

Resource representatives through general sponsorship from the Manchester Area Human Resource Association, Cullen said.

Some of the businesses planning to attend include PICA Manufacturing, Easter Seals, Methuen Construction, Leddy Group, U.S. Army Recruiting and Campus Feedback, according to the release.

For businesses, companies can join by making a \$50 booth donation that goes directly to student scholarship, Cullen said.

Simply have one of your staff contact Doug Cullen, Manager of Career Services at Pinkerton Academy (dcullen@pinkertonacademy.org or call 437-5200 ext. 1141) to reserve a booth with a "Yes, We'd Like To Attend" and bring a \$50 check on the day of the event made out to "Pinkerton Academy Career Fair" - or mail in advance to Pinkerton Academy c/o Doug Cullen, 5 Pinkerton Street, Derry, NH 03038. Registration is that simple, Cullen said.

Some of the companies attending include PICA Manufacturing, Easter Seals, Methuen Construction, Leddy Group, US Army Recruiting and Campus Feedback.

Businesses representatives planning to attend should arrive and park in Visitor Parking at the Academy Building at 11 a.m. to meet with both Pinkerton students and the general public or at 12:45pm if just interested in meeting with the General Public.

All Career Fair attendees

are encouraged to then come to the Southern N.H. College Fair in the Hackler Gymnasium starting at 6 p.m. Those attending can meet over 100 colleges, attend workshops on best practices in planning financial aid for college, obtain information about leading GAP Year vendors, or understand how to articulate from New Hampshire's community colleges to our university system in simple, easy steps, according to the release.

Birdsell Praises Committee Vote to Strengthen Elections

On March 7, Senator Regina Birdsell (R-Derry/Hampstead) introduced a bill in the Election Law and Internal Affairs Committee, which will clarify the domicile requirement for voting purposes in New Hampshire, releasing the following statement.

"This is a common sense piece of legislation that clarifies what it means to be domiciled in New Hampshire," the Senator said. "Making changes to the currently confusing and unclear voter domicile laws have had wide support by New Hampshire voters and Secretary of State Bill Gardner."

"By passing this bill, the

Senate will finally clarify that domicile is more than just a state of mind by requiring proof after voting if they are unable to do so on election day. This will ensure that only those with a vested interest in New Hampshire's communities to vote in an election. At the same time, we will be protecting the integrity of our elections and allowing only those with a vested interest in New Hampshire's communities to vote in an election."

On Tuesday, March 21, the Senate Election Law and Internal Affairs Committee recommended ought to pass on SB 3 with amendment

for the purpose of strengthening the definition of voter domicile in New Hampshire.

Senator Birdsell, being a prime sponsor of the bill and chair of the Election Law and Internal Affairs Committee, issued the following statement:

"Under this legislation no one will be denied a ballot. It requires that voters are accountable and asks that domicile be more than just a frame of mind, but places where a person can easily prove where they live. This will ensure that the votes cast by the residents in a community are not diluted. We owe it to the citizens we

represent to protect the validity and integrity of their vote in an election, which this legislation does through clarifying the definition of domicile."

"We know that there are more than 2,200 verification letters since 2012 and 428 from the 2016 election alone that have been returned as undeliverable at the Attorney General's office due to the failure of those voters to verify that they were domici-

ciled in New Hampshire. This legislation provides added clarity to voter rights that New Hampshire has been lacking."

"We've continued to refine this bill and listened to the concerns raised, and have further streamlined the necessary forms and allowing local officials to verify a voter's domicile for those who were not able to provide documentation of who they are and where they live

10-30 days after they vote."

"New Hampshire voters have consistently supported tightening up our election laws and the enhancements in this bill serve to protect our citizen's right to vote while ensuring everyone who is legally domiciled in the community they are voting in received a ballot."

"I am proud to sponsor this legislation and I look forward to the vote by the full Senate next week."

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Editorial

Spring is (Almost) in the Air

While this past winter may have had plenty of snow – albeit seemingly all at once in scattered storms – and plenty of below freezing weather, the icing on the cake was when the official start of spring arrived on Monday, March 20th, preceded by a weekend of snow showers. And it's especially confounding after the little tease we'd had just a week or so before.

There's an old saying, pertaining to the month of March, which goes, "In like a Lion, out like a Lamb". This was said to describe that if March began with brutal weather, it would end with mild, calm weather. This year, with the "spring tease" from late February to early into this month, it's safe to say that March came in like a Lamb. However, the middle, with that last big "hurrah" Old Man Winter had on Tuesday the 14th, was a bit more lion-like. However, the rest of the month promises to be more indifferent, so maybe it will go out as something in between. But what does this mean for the rest of the year?

Perhaps it confirms, despite the brief aforementioned tease, that the Groundhog was right about there being six more weeks of winter.

But if it's any consolation, you can soon congratulate yourself on having gotten through another New England winter.

This year, except for the change in the sunlight, you could fool us that spring is actually here. We're still knee deep in snow in many places, but there's no mistaking the sound of birds in the early morning and the change in the quality of

light after business hours. Friends from other parts of the country are sending Facebook photos of their flowering shrubs, but instead of creating jealousy, these photos give us hope that it won't be too much longer until we can provide them with the same.

So as we hopelessly search bare patches of grass making their way out of the last-minute pack of snow, we look forward to having soggy mud replace the treacherous ice patches in the driveway, and we smile when we see the temperature will be above freezing. We may even haul out a lawn chair and sit outside, however briefly, as that March sun shines down, even though we're still bundled up in gloves and sweaters.

And we never fail to look toward the future. We know mud season is coming when the basement starts to flood. And when the mud and water finally fade away, we'll soon be visited by mosquitoes and black flies.

But as stalwart New Englanders, we'll get through all that and get down to the business of waiting for the weather to warm up so we can enjoy the summer, however brief.

Those of us who stick it out during the ever-extending winter know that blue skies and warm weather are just around the corner, and summer isn't far behind. Until then, we will prepare for the Spring allergy season with antihistamines, home remedies, and perhaps some locally produced honey and pollen.

Facilities

continued from page 1

manner and the results of it come back to the board at a time when we might be effective with it and make sure it doesn't drop in our laps at the end of August."

School Board Chairman Dan McKenna said administrators are preparing an update on the Facilities Committee after it meets, which could be at the end of this month or early next month.

"That update might be a good time to have the conversation that you want to see so you can kind of get a report of what the committee is doing," McKenna said.

The meeting Perkins attended was more a thought exercise, as opposed to being thought provoking, McKenna said. He said that other Facility Committee meetings are usually more business-oriented and work-related.

Perkins said he is fine with the update. He said he was asked about what was going on at the committee meetings by some people and that is why he went.

"So just sharing that with you, but I'm happy to have that discussion at a later date as you have suggested," Perkins said.

McKenna said he isn't putting the meeting off indefinitely and that new

reports on the committee are coming.

In a previous meeting, Superintendent of Schools Laura Nelson outlined three possible scenarios as part of the third phase of the project.

In scenario one, which is based on projected enrollment, closing a school is not practical through the 2020-21 school year, she said. Gilbert H. Middle School would be used to house grades seven and eight, and West Running Brook Middle School would be used to house grades five and six. The first scenario also includes considering consolidating all kindergarten classes and Derry Early Education Preschool Program(DEEP) at Derry Village Elementary School and then organizing grades one through four at three elementary schools. There are five elementary schools in the district: Earnest P. Barka, Derry Village, East Derry Memorial, Grinnell and South Range.

In the second scenario, which is based on projected enrollment, closing a school is not practical thru 2020-21 school year. Gilbert H. Hood would be used to house grade seven and eight, DEEP would remain at Hood, and West Running Brook would house grades five and six. Then all kindergarten classes through grade four would be consolidated in four elementary schools.

The report did not list a school to be closed.

Scenario three, the last scenario, is also based on projected enrollment and an elementary school could be closed in school year 2019-20 school year. This scenario keeps the current arrangement, with grades k-8 in the elementary schools and grades six through eight at West Running Brook and Gilbert H. Hood. This plan calls for consolidating the five elementary schools into four schools. Again, the report didn't list a school to be closed.

Now that the facilities report on possible scenarios is complete, administrators are moving on to the third phase of the project.

Along with possibly closing a school, officials are also considering redistricting. Nelson said this process involves taking the boundaries of all of the streets and "shifting those boundaries as to which school the children would attend."

For example, if a child lives on a particular street in town and attends a particular school, the child could be attending a different school through redistricting, Nelson said.

If a decision is made to redistrict, some work will take up to a year and year and a half to organize, Nelson said.

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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Election Results: The Nutfield News will post election results from both the Town and School District to our facebook page as soon as we are able to on Wednesday, March 22.

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South Range

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former faculty members haven't been in the building for over 20 years, and since then the school has gone through significant renovations, most of which he has seen in his 19 years at the school.

In 2000, South Range Elementary phased out their portable classrooms and had a sizable addition put on to the back of the school building, allowing more room for a library, computer room, and a music and art room, both subjects formerly having their teachers moving from classroom to classroom with carts of supplies and a closet to serve as their offices.

He also mentioned that over his nearly two decades serving South Range Elementary, he's seen staff and

students come and go, as is the case with any school, but he remarked on one thing that hasn't changed a bit.

"I'll tell you what's remained constant," Principal Olsen went on. "Since I was hired on, the school has been a real strong, family-oriented school from staff being close...to extending to the community."

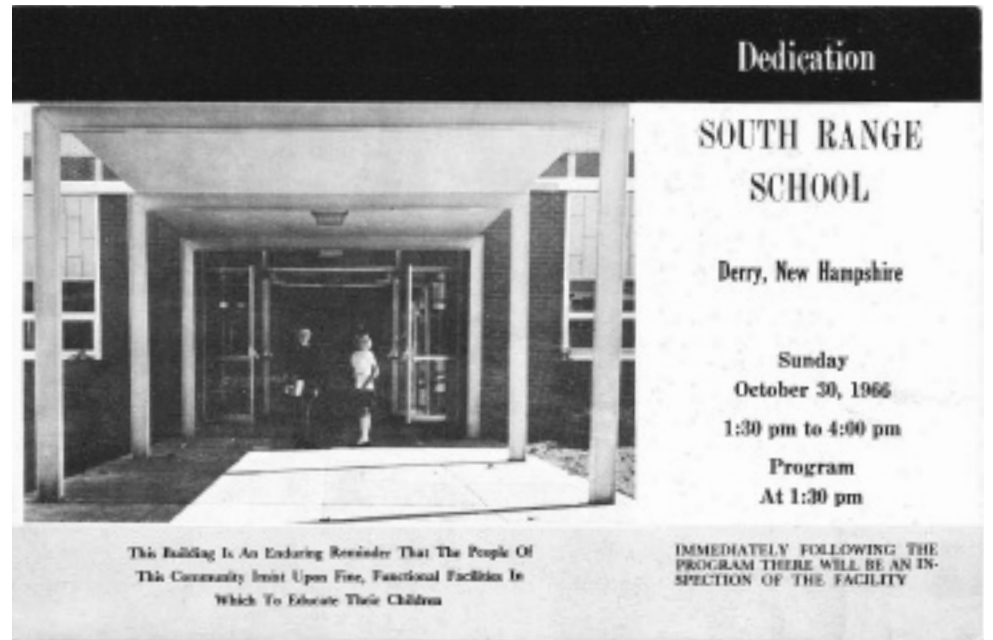
Olsen explained that the daytime activities for students were still in the works, but included such fun and informative activities as having each grade "dress in decades" from the 1960's to today, having each grade be prompted to either write about or illustrate what they thought the school was like 50 years ago (to be displayed for the returning faculty in the evening), and if weather permits, the kids would be treated to "50 min-

utes of fun" outside following a schoolwide assembly.

In the evening, former teachers, principals, and staff will have a chance to reunite and catch up, and will also be treated to a tour of the school to see firsthand how it has grown and evolved over the years since some of them have been there. Principal Olsen will also be among some of the speakers towards the end of the evening, including a former principal, school board member, and a number of others who had been instrumental to the school over the years who may want to say a few words.

When asked how he thought the school might change in its next 50 years, Principal Olsen instead countered how he hoped it wouldn't change.

"I would hope that it



Cover from the dedication flyer after construction of the South Range Elementary School was completed in 1966. In its 50 years serving students, the school has maintained a sense of community closeness and pride. *Courtesy Photo*

maintains the close family feel (you get) when you enter South Range School."

Olsen said that the

evening event promises a good turnout, about having received close to 100 affirmative RSVP's out of the

nearly 200 invitations sent to current and past staff, as well as town offices, and the fire and police departments.

Audit

continued from page 1

Till said, "Senate Bill 109, which authorized a moderator to conduct a verification count of machine-counted ballots, was introduced earlier this year. Till said the bill was introduced in an effort to resolve differences in interpretation of the New Hampshire Constitution Part 2.

SB 109 was deemed Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL) on a near party-line voice vote.

"ITL in this case simply means that the New Hampshire Senate chose not to

clarify the issue at this time. It does not mean that they affirmatively denied the right of a moderator to conduct an audit as some interpret their action," Till said.

She concluded her email by saying, "Based on the continuing confusion on this issue, I will not be conducting an audit of the voting machines on March 21."

Till's announcement to conduct the audit for the second time and then to cancel those plans, follows assertions from New Hampshire officials that she violated state election law during the Sept. 13 Primary.

Secretary of State William Gardner and Attorney General Joseph Foster addressed the alleged violations in an Oct. 20 letter.

The alleged violations involve: failure to identify a central polling place; the handling of ballots; how the ballots were delivered; and that Till conducted a hand recount of an AccuVote machine.

As for the fourth alleged violation of conducting the audit, Till said she felt she was fulfilling her responsi-

bility as town moderator "that the reported vote count is correct."

At a prior council meeting, Till responded to Gardner's and Foster's assertions in the Oct. 20 letter. Till said she wanted to assure residents "that nothing in the letter implied or alleged that the elections in Derry in September were in any way compromised by the violations described therein."

During the March 7 meeting during Till's presentation, Town Clerk Dan

Healey said he wanted to point out that a recent bill pertaining to audits failed in the state House for the second time.

"Audits really aren't supposed to be allowed," said Healey, who planned to inform state officials of Till's intentions to conduct the audit.

During the public forum segment of the meeting, res-

ident Marc Flattes, who is running for the District 3 council seat against Neil Wetherbee, said he wanted to register a "formal protest against any audit that Mary till does. We already have a record and a ruling from the state from this past September. I'm on the ballot; this could be a possible issue of a grievance. I'm against it, 100 percent against it."

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Parents Encouraged To Register Children for School

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

With projected kindergarten enrollment significantly down, school officials are encouraging parents to register their children this spring for next year.

School Board members discussed projected kindergarten enrollment and received a report on current and projected enrollment for grades K-8 during their regular March 7 meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Christopher Kellan presented enrollment figures for

each school and grades K-8. He also gave the projected enrollment numbers.

For 2016-17, enrollment is as follows: Earnest P. Baraka Elementary School, 550 students; Derry Village School, 446 students; East Derry Memorial Elementary School, 430 students; Grinnell Elementary, 385 students; and South Range Elementary School, 330 students. The total for grades K-5 is 2,141 students.

For Middle School, enrollment is: Gilbert H. Hood Middle School, 659 students and West Running

Brook Middle School, 539 students. The total for grades 6-8 is 1,198; and enrollment for grades K-8 is 3,385 students, Kellan said.

As for projected enrollment for the next school year, Kellan gave the following figures: Earnest P. Baraka Elementary School, 527 students; Derry Village School, 388 students; East Derry Memorial Elementary School, 432 students; Grinnell Elementary, 362 students; and South Range Elementary School, 306 students. The total for grades K-5 is 2,015 students.

For Middle School, enrollment is: Gilbert H. Hood Middle School, 629 students and West Running Brook Middle School, 535 students. The total for grades 6-8 is 1,164; and enrollment for grades K-8 is 3,179 students, Kellan said.

"And just important to note, that in those projections it's still noteworthy that the kindergarten enrollment is significantly lower," Kellan said. "And we are expecting to see an increase in that now that we are into the spring," Kellan said.

He added that administrators would keep the board members informed on projected kindergarten enrollment in the spring.

Based on projections, School Board Chairman Dan McKenna Derry Village School has two half-day

kindergarten classes with a combined enrollment of only 11 students.

"We have 11 kids there so that could be one section instead of two," McKenna said.

And at South Range School, he said there are 13 students in a room meant for 36 students.

In addition, he said there is room at East Derry and Grinnell Schools for additional half-day kindergarten students.

He said they might consider having a morning class at one school an afternoon class at the other.

Kellan said principals at the various schools have been sending out letters to parents with kindergarten age children, encouraging them to come in and register their children.

Kellan said the district can also use such methods as digital media to encourage parents to come and register their children.

School Board Vice-Chair Brenda Willis said the district has encouraged parents to get their children registered earlier in the year by opening enrollment in November.

"Let's just encourage any families who do have kindergartners to get them registered because we tried to make the projections more solid by opening enrollment in November," Willis said. "And I think as we move along that will prove to be a better process, but I think maybe a lot of people weren't aware of that. So if you are out there and you have kindergartners, get them registered at their schools."



Rotary Names Students of the Month

The Rotary Club of Derry named its eighth grade students of the month for February at a recent meeting. From left, Bruce Gurley Rotary Club of Derry Student of the Month and Year Coordinator, Isabella Woods of Gilbert H. Hood Middle School and Tiffany Snipes from West Running Brook Middle School and John O'Brey Rotary Club of Derry President

Courtesy photo



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Pinkerton's 'Seussical The Musical' Set To Start March 24



The Pinkerton Players have been rehearsing "Seussical the Musical" for a number of weeks and will have performances starting March 24 through March 26 at Stockbridge Theatre. *Photos by Chris Paul*

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

Based on the imaginative works of Dr. Seuss, the Pinkerton Players will be performing "Seussical the Musical" and is scheduled to start on Friday, March 24 at the Stockbridge Theatre and run through the weekend.

Instead of basing the musical on only one story, the production utilizes all of the most beloved stories and characters from the worlds of Theodore Geisel, said Laura Iwaskiewicz, the show's director.

"The overarching story that links them all together

is that of Horton the Elephant and his care of the tiny dust speck that holds the world of Whoville," she said.

With a cast of 39 students, the first production was held during the first week of January and the students have been rehearsing three days a week since then, she said.

Because of the nature of the show, there are many lead roles. Cast as Horton the Elephant is Senior Josh Gore, Iwaskiewicz said.

Gore has been in the Pinkerton musical during all of his four years at the high school, she said. Last year, he played the Beast in the production Beauty and the Beast.

The set was designed by Jim Webber and was built by Rob Lemire and the set crew. "When people think of Dr. Seuss we

think bright colors and interesting shapes and Jim has expertly brought this world to life with an incredibly dynamic set," Iwaskiewicz said.

The Pit Orchestra was assembled and is being directed by Mike Adams, Pinkerton director of bands.

"The Pit is made up almost entirely of Pinkerton Music students which is a rarity for many high school shows," she said. "The level of talent and musicianship that these students display in the pit is what allows the students to shine on the stage."

The music by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens pulls many lyrics from Dr. Seuss books and has titles such as "Oh, the thinks you can think!", "Solla Sollew", and "Green Eggs and Ham".

Iwaskiewicz said the costumes were designed

by Cherie Prior and Laurel O'Connor. and, "like the sets, expertly brings to life the beloved Dr. Seuss characters."

She added, "When approaching costume design we really focused on making sure that the core of the characters was recognizable but that we were able to put our own spin to make them unique to our specific production."

The first show is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. on Friday, with other performances scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday; 7 p.m. Saturday; and 2 p.m. Sunday.

Seussical the Musical is appropriate for all ages.

Tickets are \$12 for Adults and \$10 for Students and Seniors.

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DERRY SPORTS

Pinkerton Spirit Squad Snares New England Championship



CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

Stated plainly, it's simply not a good idea to take on the Pinkerton Academy winter varsity spirit squad at a competition these days.

Veteran coach Michelle McCarty's Pinkerton crew kept its exceptional 2016-17 season rolling last Saturday, March 18 by winning a New England championship in Rhode Island.

The Lady Astros tallied a glittering team score of 208 out of a possible 220 to drive their way to the regional crown at the big event, which was held at the Providence Career and Technical Academy.

The academy crew has now won four of the last five New England championships in continuing to tally successes and gain the respect of opponents across the region.

Meanwhile, back here in New Hampshire that day, the Pinkerton junior varsity spirit crew showed that the Lady Astros' winning ways are expected to go on for years by claiming the state JV title.

Prior to the New England regionals, the academy varsity powerhouse had added more prestige and hardware to its exceptional record of performances with yet another winter title success at the Division I cham-

pionships in its own Hackler Gymnasium on Sunday, March 12.

Coach McCarty's varsity team claimed its eighth consecutive winter spirit title and the 13th since 2004 that day by tallying an impressive team score of 107.3 out of a possible 110 points.

Concord's Crimson Tide finished a distant second with a 102.6. When one counts the seven consecutive fall spirit championships won by the Pinkerton spirit squads, the academy juggernaut has now claimed a jaw-dropping 15 New Hampshire crowns in a row.

Pinkerton's title-winning team includes seniors Aurora Goujon, Cameron La-



The powerhouse Pinkerton Academy winter varsity spirit squad claimed yet another New England championship last weekend in Rhode Island, notching 208 out of a possible 220 points in the process.

Photos by Chris Paul

Roche, Hannah Rogers, Hanscom, sophomores Kay- men Genna Dellisola, Kendra Hicks, Alyssa cie Rizzo, Jacie Harlow, Ashley Hebert, and Julia Daigle, Camryn Teresky, Kristen Bukunt, Allison Saab. The perennial title-winning team's assistant coaches are Gina Mullane and Julie Venglass.



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A Ball Was Had By All During Annual Academy Dodgeball Event

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

The excitement was positively palpable before and during the annual Pinkerton Academy School-Wide Dodgeball Tournament held in the school's Hackler Gymnasium last Thursday, March 16.

A total of 19 student

teams and one spirited faculty crew competed for bragging rights and hardware, with possession of the championship coming down to some fiery action.

"The champions were the student team called Black Ice," said PA intramural and tournament director Kerry Boles. "The first-time participants called Fresh

Man's put an amazing run together and were narrowly defeated by Black Ice in the championship round. The third-place team was the team called Buckets, Bodies, and the Bees. And although the faculty team didn't get to the Final Four, it was a good showing once again."

The title-winning Black Ice crew consisted of Zach Rioux, Cobi Moore, Eric Reardon, David Currier,

Sean Muller, Matt Clark, Norm Kerman, Brian Sutton, and Ty Behsman.

The Fresh Man's contingent which the champs vanquished in championship-round play included Brady Day, Joey Marra, Kyle Nikas, Connor McCormack, Toby Demarco, Colton Boursier, and Jeff Potvin.

The third place Buckets, Bodies, and the Bees bunch consisted of Matt Fabrizio, Colin Petrie, Cason Gior-

dano, Nick Bortone, C.J. Labonville, Andrew Lufkin, and Jack Potvin.

The faculty contingent, which came up with imaginative and in many cases truly humorous nicknames for each player in attempting to unify its effort, included Megan "Showtime" Hersey, Molly "Sporter" Lucia, Laura "Secret Weapon" Ryan, Cody "Cannon Arm" Wheaton, Eric "Enforcer" Dugas, Ian "Beach Body" French, Dale "Techy" Cremone, Jen "GF" Resmini, Chris "Shaquille" O'Neil, Mike "\$2" White, and Guy "French Connection" Couture.

"I can't say enough about the competition and how well the students behaved all night," said tourney director Boles. "We had a ton of fun

but we also treated this as a community service endeavor. We asked each participant as well as spectators to voluntarily bring one food item to donate to the Sonshine Soup Kitchen in Derry. We are able to bring multiple boxes of food as well as a gift card from Market Basket to Sonshine. It's our pleasure to help the community. We also had faculty members who helped throughout the tournament. When we were not playing, we were officiating, keeping the clock, cleaning the gym, maintaining order with the spectators and players, and generally assisting with whatever was needed. This tournament would not take place without them giving up their personal time."



Colin Petrie and his Buckets, Bodies, and the Bees' bunch finished a strong third out of 20 teams in last week's Pinkerton Academy School-Wide Dodgeball Tournament.

Photos by Chris Paul



Kyle Nikas of the Fresh Man squad watches out for balls flying his way while hoping to get a shot off himself during the PA tournament.



Brian Sutton and his Black Ice teammates collected the title and bragging rights by winning the spirited Pinkerton annual dodgeball tourney in the academy's Hackler Gymnasium late last week.

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Lady Astro Cagers Kane and Lemire Snare Top All-State Honors



CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

From the earliest performances of the Pinkerton Academy girls' basketball squad during the 2016-17 season, it was apparent that junior point-guard Amanda Lemire and sophomore forward Brooke Kane were going to be vital catalysts for coach Lani Buskey's bunch.

And that fact was actually so true that the absence of Lemire from her court-general's position - due to a stress fracture of the right foot - late in the campaign was likely the decisive factor in the Lady Astros not getting closer to a state championship last month despite the strong and determined efforts of Kane and her other Pinkerton teammates in the

Division I tournament.

But regardless of the Lady Astros' finish in the semifinal-round of the tournament, both Lemire and Kane ended up being recognized by the Division I coaches as First-Team All-State selections once the campaign finished recently.

The Pinkerton hoopsters put together a 16-2 regular season record to finish as the number two seed in Division I. But with Lemire sidelined the Lady Astros lost two of their final three games of the season with the second being a 55-30 defeat at the hands of the third-ranked Bedford High Lady Bulldogs in the D-I tournament semifinals.

"Amanda was the quarterback of the team. She ran the show and managed the

team," said coach Buskey. "She became the central piece to our composure. Her leadership cannot be replaced, and on top of that she was the second leading scorer with 12 points per game. Her offensive threat combined with her maturity on the court makes her one of the most dynamic players I have ever coached."

Lemire's teammate Kane is the kind of cager who plays older than she is. If someone were to have sat down and watched a Pinkerton girls' hoop game and not had a roster handy, they could easily have mistaken the sophomore for a more mature and seasoned junior or senior player.

"Brooke Kane emerged this year as not only an offensive threat but as a

defensive powerhouse for us," said Buskey. "She provided us length and made our defense a dynamic force. She averaged 2.5 blocks per game, and what Brooke provided on the offensive end can't be denied. She became our biggest scoring threat and was able to play both the inside and outside games. She averaged 14 points per game and gave us someone we could rely on to give us points on a consistent basis. She became a force as just a sophomore, which is quite an accomplishment."

And having not one but two First-Team All-Staters coming back into the same fold for the 2017-18 season later this year is a fact which any coach would envy.

"Both girls are truly deserving of this honor, and



Sophomore forward Brooke Kane played beyond her years for PA this winter.

I look forward to seeing how much they grow next season," said the PA coach.

PA Junior Varsity Ski Squads Point Toward a Bright Future

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

For the first time ever, Pinkerton Academy elected to field junior varsity girls' and boys' ski teams this winter as well as varsity crews. And from the very first junior varsity meet in school history at Pat's Peak in Henniker on Jan. 25, PA ski program mentor Paul D'Antonio was pleased that he made the move.

"Both the JV boys and girls, with some guest appearances from some varsity members, came up with a great performance in what was the first time ever racing for most of the JV team (members)," said coach D'Antonio.

For the boys, Pinkerton team members Ryan Iller, Zachary Kahn, Ethan Hatch, Issac Coulombe, and Ben Qualters used help from varsity members Peter Tinker and Billy Gonya in putting forth a great performance and taking second place out of a field of six teams.

Gonya placed first for his team and sixth overall, and Kahn finished seventh for the team and seventh overall. Coulombe placed third for PA and 11th overall, and Hatch snagged fourth place for the locals and 11th place overall.

Additionally, Qualters placed 18th overall and Iller collected 19th out of a field of 26 competitors.

"Peter Tinker had a run-

in with a gate and did not complete the first run, but he came back with a solid second run and that gate will never be the same."

On the girls' side of things, Pinkerton JV team members Meghan Qualters, Julia Youkstetter, Oriana Picanso, Danielle St. Peter, and Miranda Echerman received help from varsity skiers Meghan Leahay and Elizabeth Veale in putting forth a good performance in placing third out of six teams.

Veale finished first for her locals and seventh overall and Youkstetter placed second overall for the team and 15th overall. Meghan Leahay placed third for PA and 18th overall, St. Peter

took fourth for the Lady Astros and was 22nd overall, and her teammate Echerman placed right behind her in the 23rd spot. Qualters placed 24th overall and Picanso notched 29th place.

"The JV teams are the

future of the alpine race teams here at Pinkerton, and these athletes have shown today that the future is bright," said D'Antonio.

The coach and his assistant Nicole Cuerdon both saw their varsity ski squads do extremely well during

their 2016-17 campaigns, with the girls winning a second straight state title and the Astro males enjoying considerable success as well. And the PA JV skiers will take aim at keeping the academy teams all kinds of strong in the future.

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Ex-Astro Skater Sanford Traded by Capitals to St. Louis Blues

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

Talent evaluators in the National Hockey League feel strongly that former Pinkerton Academy star hockey player Zach Sanford has the necessary skills to be an impressive player in the top professional league in the world.

And up until recently, it looked as though the former Astro standout would be doing his damage for the Washington Capitals.

But, the Capitals decided that their immediate needs in their hunt for their organization's first Stanley Cup Championship included an established NHL defenseman. And the St. Louis Blues were willing to move veteran defensive player Kevin Shattenkirk to Washington if Sanford could be made part of the deal. The Caps agreed, and prior to the recent NHL trade deadline - during the final days of February to be more precise - Sanford was dealt to the

Blues.

The former Astro - who grew up in Auburn - has thus far split the 2016-17 season between the big club in Washington and its minor league affiliate in Hershey, Pa. Sanford potted two goals and assisted on one other in 26 games with the Capitals. And he notched 11 goals and five assists for 16 points in 25 contests with the Hersey Bears.

Sanford joined the Blues on a road trip out West following the trade and scored his first goal for his new crew against the San Jose Sharks in California last Thursday, March 16.

The former Pinkerton star scored his very first NHL goal against the Anaheim Ducks in dramatic fashion for the Capitals back on Feb. 11. Sanford scored what proved to be the game-winning goal with just 2:39 left in regulation time, breaking a 4-4 tie.

After finding out about the recent trade, the former academy star iceman - who



Former Pinkerton hockey star Zach Sanford was recently traded by the Washington Capitals to the St. Louis Blues at the NHL trade deadline. *Courtesy photo*

also played volleyball at the school - had to make an immediate plane trip from the East Coast to the West to join his new teammates. And when he arrived, he watched St. Louis play while he stood on the sidelines in street clothes, when inter-

viewed and asked him about having had the chance to play with Washington stars like Alex Ovechkin and T.J. Oshie, himself a former Saint Louis Blues' standout.

"Obviously you're going to learn a lot every day, just like the little tricks of where to be on the ice and where to put the puck," said Sanford.

During the winter of 2011-12, PA standout Sanford was a man among boys when he helped to lead his Astros to the Division I high school championship.

Then, four hockey seasons and a whole lot of ice time later, the 22-year-old fresh-faced Pinkerton grad became very much a man among men at the highest level of professional hockey.

In making the Washington Caps' roster out of train-

ing camp late last summer, the 6'4", 203-pound forward became the second former Pinkerton star to play in his first NHL games in the last two winters. PA grad and University of New Hampshire hockey legend Paul Thompson from Derry got his first NHL playing experience with the New Jersey Devils - starting off with a game against the Boston Bruins no less - during the 2014-15 campaign.

In July of last year, Sanford was all set to return for his junior season at Boston College in the fall before the Capitals convinced him that he had a legitimate shot at making their opening-night roster.

After thinking it over, the local signed a three-year, entry-level contract with the Caps and then proceeded to have a fine training camp. Washington coach Barry Trotz informed Sanford that he had in fact made the Capitals' opening night lineup late in camp, and the former Astro then savored the NHL experience throughout the Caps' first 20 contests.

He made his NHL debut on Oct. 13 against the defending Stanley Cup-champion Pittsburgh Penguins in the Steel City on Oct. 13, and bagged his first point - an assist - against the Calgary Flames on Oct. 30.

Sanford was head and shoulders above the competition as a junior at Pinkerton during the 2011-12 Division I hockey campaign, potting 36 goals and dishing out 33

assists for 69 points in just 21 contests. And he and his fellow Astros got to hoist the state championship plaque over their heads at the end of that stellar season.

Sanford moved on to junior hockey and the Junior Islanders for the 2012-13 season while a Pinkerton senior, tallying nearly a point per game in 37 contests. The big forward had 12 goals and 24 helpers in 37 games that winter, and in the spring he played volleyball for the PA varsity while chatting with and visiting NHL teams which were contemplating drafting him in the 2013 amateur draft.

Soon after graduating from PA that spring, the Capitals showed how much they coveted Sanford by making a significant trade with the Winnipeg Jets to acquire the second-round draft pick with which they'd snag the local hockey star.

That fall Sanford ended up further honing his skills in the United States Hockey League with the Waterloo (Iowa) Black Hawks, for whom he played in 52 games potting 35 points on 17 goals and 18 assists.

With Washington still owning his NHL rights, Sanford decided that his next move would be collegiate hockey at Boston College, where he wound up playing with former Pinkerton teammate and Auburn resident J.D. Dudek.

As a BC freshman, Sanford tallied 24 points on seven goals and 17 assists, and he made still greater strides forward in D-I college hockey as a sophomore last winter by collecting 39 points on 13 goals and 26 helpers in 41 games for his BC Eagles.

Then came that challenging decision last July, whether to play another year of college hockey and become an unrestricted NHL free-agent afterwards or sign on with the Capitals. Sanford chose the latter move, and it landed him in the Caps' colorful red, white, and blue uniform and the National Hockey League.

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Derry Garden Club

The next meeting of the Derry Garden Club will be held on Friday, April 7, at 10 a.m. at the Derry Girls and Boys Club, 40 Hampstead Road, Derry. The April speaker will be Kari Allard, a horticulturalist with over 25 years of experience in the plant industry and is from a Garden Center in Londonderry. She will speak on Organic Herbs and alternative pollinators in the garden. Members are to bring a bag lunch. The committee will provide beverages, chips and desserts.

Learn About Bobcats

Bobcats will be the topic of a program to be held Wednesday, April 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the Derry Public Library. A speaker from the New Hampshire Fish and Game

Department will be the presenter. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 432-6140.

Have a Cup of Tea

The Derry Public Library will host "Tea Time" Wednesday, March 29, at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Presenter Lydia Simmons will speak on the history of tea, cooking with tea, health benefits, etiquette, and how to brew the perfect cup. Those attending are welcome to bring a favorite cup and saucer and share the story behind it. For more information or to register, call 432-6140.

Depression Workshop

In conjunction with The Upper Room, the YMCA of Greater Londonderry is

offering the final workshop in a series for teens and their parents Thursday, March 23, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Londonderry Middle School, 313 Mammoth Road, Londonderry. "Depression -How It Feels To Be You:" is the topic. The workshop is free; for more information or to register contact Lisa Fitzgerald, the "Y" branch director, at 232-8640.

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 archi-

tecture, 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/2017.html. Applications must be received by April 1.

Adult Coloring

Coloring nights for adults will be held March 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.

Race for families' futures

The Upper Room will hold its second annual TUR-RFF 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-turrrf.

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 narcanon-suncoast.org/blog/the-power-of-an-intervention.html or call 877-841-5509.

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.

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; Thursday, March 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.

Free Meals

The following free meals are offered in March: March 26, Breakfast at Church of the Transfiguration, 9 to 10 a.m., 1 Hood Road, Derry, 432-2130; March 26, Lunch hosted by St. Jude Parish Community,

1:30 PM to 2:30 PM, at the Londonderry Lions Hall, 432-3333; 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.

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.

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 patty.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.

Local Business Making Local Honey

MELISSA BETH RUIZ
NUTFIELD NEWS

Richard Matckie, owner of Kendall Pond Honey Co. has been keeping bees and making pure, local honey and other bee-sourced products for about 11 years. He was first inspired to do so by a customer he had at his primary business, Mainline Plumbing and Heating, who had used bee sting therapy as a treatment for her Multiple Sclerosis.

"She's since passed away, but she was amazing," Matckie remarked, recounting the times he had watched her take the bees from a jar to sting herself on her arm. He explained that the venom from the sting would help to alleviate the pain she experienced from the disease.

He enrolled himself in a bee-keeping program that year and has kept educating himself since, as he explained that a good beekeeper must be up-to-date on the changes in information.

Matckie said that this time of year, beekeeping is focused on making sure that

the bees' food storage from the winter is at an amount that will get them through the end of the season, and in manipulating the colony to cut down on swarming, or the overpopulation of the colony.

Matckie said he is able to create two varieties of honey: Spring and Fall. He explained that the Spring honey is made with the pollen from Spring flowers, and the Fall honey is made from the pollen of flowers that bloom in the Summer-time. Both honeys help to alleviate the effects their respective season's naturally occurring nasal irritants for those who suffer from seasonal allergies.

Matckie spoke about the endangered status of bees, saying that the decline in population is due in some part to populations being effected by mites, but in a much larger part by their habitats and food sources being devastated by humans. However, he said that the issue could be combated by taking the time to plant a flower or tree that bees use

as a source of food, such as sunflowers, asters, goldenrod, southern crabapple trees, black willow, and tulip trees, just to name a few.

When asked how he felt that bees help to make a better place, Matckie said, "They pollinate more than half of our food, they're the ones responsible for making our food. They provide us the sweet form of sugar that's a lot healthier than regular, granulated sugar."

Just one ounce of raw/local honey contains 20 different vitamins (including B2, B3, B5, B6 and C), 18 amino acids, loads of antioxidants, and has strong antibacterial, antiviral, and antifungal properties. To be sure that the honey is of this healthy caliber, make sure that it is labeled "Raw" or "Local Honey."

In addition Kendall Pond Honey Co also sells blocks and candles made of beeswax, honeybee pollen (an extreme form of pollen which helps people who ingest it build up a tolerance to seasonal allergies), pure pollen (which also helps

people boost immunity to allergens and is found in honey), and bee propolis, a substance made by resin taken by bees from leaf buds and barks from certain trees, which is then mixed with wax, honey, and enzymes. Propolis has been used by humans for its antiseptic, antimicrobial, and detoxifying properties for centuries, and has been found to ease ailments such as sore throats and toothaches.

As far as expanding this venture into the future, Matckie explained that his Plumbing and Heating business is his main focus, and reiterated that Kendall Pond Honey Co and beekeeping was a hobby, which was subsidized by the sale of the products.

"I'd like to stay focused on staying small and producing good quality (products) than volume." He said.

Those who would like to see more of Kendall Pond Honey Co may visit its facebook page: www.facebook.com/KendallPondHoneyCo/



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