

Nutfield News

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School District Brings Finalizes Budget For Public Hearing

ALEX GUITTARR
NUTFIELD NEWS

With budget discussions nearly coming to a close for the Derry School District, the school board recently held a public hearing during their Jan. 9 meeting at West Running Brook Middle School to both elaborate on the details of the latest budget and hear comments and concerns from the public on the matter.

However, before digging into the district's budget, Pinkerton Academy Headmaster Griffin Morse got everyone up to speed on Pinkerton's budget for the next fiscal year. According to Morse, they are expecting a slight increase in enrollment by fifty students,

bringing their total up to three thousand, two hundred and seventy, with over seventeen hundred coming from Derry alone.

The actual budget is currently set at around thirty nine million, four hundred and sixty thousand dollars for next year, with the bulk of these costs coming from salaries and benefits, which total out to thirty one million, three hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Furthermore, on top of a 2.23% average increase for the special education budget, the school will also see a 1.71% increase in student tuition, which is set at just over twelve thousand dollars per student. The latter increase can be attributed to the likes of increased health

care benefits, salary increases, new math faculty and student support staff, parking lot construction and upgrades to educational devices in freshman classrooms.

"We've been very pleased with the way things are going," Morse stated.

Jane Simard, the district's Business Administrator, then took her opportunity to expand upon the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget for the Derry School District, including all local schools from pre-kindergarten to middle school, as well as high school students located out-of-district.

According to Simard, the proposed budget for the entire district is currently set

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Nine Town Positions Open in Upcoming Derry Elections

ALEX GUITTARR
NUTFIELD NEWS

Elections for the Town of Derry are only two months away, set to take place on Tuesday, March 13. And as with any election there are plenty of people willing to throw their hat in the ring for one position or another. Here are the positions up for grabs in the upcoming elections.

A two year term as town moderator is available. The duties for said position include presiding over town meetings, regulating the business thereof, deciding questions of order and making public declarations of every vote passed. More specifically, the moderator must read each article in

full, secure affirmative motions and second, open the floor for general discussion when applicable and announcing the official outcome of each vote. The moderator is also chiefly responsible for the election process, filing a certification of election with Town Clerk to indicate the number of votes received by each candidate.

Two three year positions on the Town Council are also available, one for a Councilor-At-Large position and one to be a Council Representative for District #1 in Derry. As the town's legislative and governing body, members of the council hold a wide variety of responsibilities, including discussing and voting on a

variety of resolutions for the town, listening to concerns from residents during public forums and working closely with town staff to determine the state of their numerous departments and their roles, just to name a few roles.

A six year position for the role of Supervisor of the Checklist is available. In this role, the supervisor is tasked with determining if a resident is legally qualified to vote and updating the checklist of registered voters if so. The supervisor must also make changes and corrections to a voter's name, address and party affiliation when applicable, as well as remove voters no longer eligible to vote in

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ROBOT RUMBLE Members of the Pinkerton Academy VEX Robotics team Adrien Anderson, Luke Osborn and Devin Shattuck try to maneuver through other robots to acquire points at the VEX Robotics competition held Pinkerton on Saturday. See story on page 8.

Photo by Chris Paul

Superior Court Upholds Variance For Storage Facility

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

A decision by the Zoning Board of Adjustment to grant a variance for a storage facility on Island Pond Road has been upheld by Rockingham Superior Court.

The court recently upheld the variance granted

last year by the ZBA for the storage facility at 343 Island Pond Road, Town Administrator David Caron said in an email on Monday. The property owner Robert Allen can now proceed to the Planning Board, Caron said.

"The Court upheld the Zoning Board's decision to

grant a variance to allow the property owner to proceed to the Planning Board to seek approval to construct a self-storage facility on the property," Caron said.

At press time, the item was scheduled to come up under the Town Administrator's Report segment of the

continued on page 2

School Board Analyzes Current Insurance Plan for District

ALEX GUITTARR
NUTFIELD NEWS

As the Derry School Board was wrapping up its public hearing discussions over the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget, it seemed just as good a time to overview its current insurance policy with Primex during the board's latest meeting on Jan. 9.

The rather brief discussion over the matter was led by the district's

Business Administrator Jane Simard, who delved into the details surrounding Primex.

Established in 1979 in Concord, Primex, also known as the New Hampshire Public Risk Management Exchange, does not function like your average insurance provider. Rather, their plans, which revolve around the likes of local government operations and school boards, are funded by various municipalities

paying into a pool for the services.

However, not only do those on the plan join in on this pool, but the government bodies invested in the program also work to become self-sufficient on matters concerning their claims and liabilities through various training courses and other resources provided by Primex, including help with playground inspections and the like.

None the less, Primex still grants a wide variety of services to bodies like the Derry School District in the event of incidents, including property and liability insurance, workman's compensation, unemployment compensation and other services.

According to Simard, the district has been signed onto Primex's services for over eighteen years on what is described as the Primex Contribution As-

surance Program and Property and Liability Program, typically resigned in three year increments. Simard felt that the board should have no issue with resigning with the plan once again, as she has noticed great responses from Primex in the past.

"I am extremely satisfied with the service and the programs that they offer", Simard noted.

Furthermore, ever since 2007, the district has

achieved what Primex refers to as Prime Status, which grants plan holders discounts on the services that they offer by achieving certain benchmarks concerning safety standards and how well the governing bodies manage their claims and other insurance matters.

The board seemed to be in agreement with Simard's sentiments, unanimously agreeing to resign with Primex for the time being.

Storage Facility

continued from page 1

Town Council's Tuesday night meeting.

The ZBA voted 3-2 at their May 4 meeting to grant the variance to the property at 343 Island Pond Road for a proposed 138-unit storage facility.

In the Jan. 19 meeting, ZBA members conditionally granted a variance to build a 138-unit self-storage facility at the site.

ZBA members voted 4-1 to grant the variance.

The variance was approved subject to obtaining all required state and town permits and inspections; Planning Board approval; and establishing 12 business hours and reducing lighting.

If approved, the self-storage facility would consist of 138 units in four buildings on an approximately 3-acre lot at 343 Island Pond Road. In addition, it would have an office for an on-site manager at

the property, according to officials.

For many years, an automotive related business, the Russell Dickey Motor Service, operated on the property that is zoned low density residential. Old equipment and vehicles that were left on the property accumulated. An environmental cleanup of the property was later conducted, according to officials.

To gain approval, Allen, the applicant, had to demonstrate that granting the variance met certain criteria necessary for approval, including meeting the spirit and intent of the low density residential zoning. In addition, Allen need-

ed to demonstrate that a hardship existed.

During the meeting, several abutters spoke in opposition to the variance.

Abutters Neil and Gail Hitter said they have lived in the same house for 34 years. If approved, the self-storage business would be located directly across from them. They opposed granting the variance because they said the business didn't meet the spirit and intent of the low density residential zoning. The self-storage business represents a large commercial operation that doesn't fit with the zoning, Neil Hitter said.

In addition, Neil Hitter said he didn't believe that

Allen had demonstrated that a hardship existed by not granting the variance. Even though it wouldn't be as profitable, Hitter said a house could still be built on the property and sold.

If the variance was granted and the business approved, Gail Hitter said the it would increase traffic and cause light pollution.

Several other abutters also voiced opposition to granting the variance, saying the proposed business didn't fit into the neighborhood and that it would cause light pollution.

In response to the abutters, attorney Bernard Campbell, who represented Allen, was given an opportunity to speak.

As for whether a hardship is present, Campbell proposed applying the cur-

rent zoning and determining "can it be used for what it is zoned for?"

Campbell said under the current zoning the house would have to be on a three-acre estate and wouldn't fit.

Campbell said Island Pond Road has an extremely mixed character and is not a three-acre estate subdivision area to fit with the low residential zoning.

ZBA members who voted for the variance said it had met all of the criteria necessary for approval.

ZBA member Heather Evans, who cast the lone vote against granting the variance, said she believed it didn't meet the character of the neighborhood.

Conditions were added to require 12 business hours of operation and to reduce lighting.



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FEMA Offers Helpful Tips for Rooftop Snow Removal

ALEX GUITTARR
NUTFIELD NEWS

Snow may have a beautiful appearance to many and really set the mood for the holiday season, but just as it can make driving a hazardous experience, it can also do a number on your home. And while recent

rains may have eliminated most of the white stuff in the area, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has recently published a series of pamphlets offering warnings and advice to homeowners that may find themselves with excessive amount of snow on their rooftops in the coming

months.

According to these pamphlets, while around ten to twelve inches of fresh snow can put roughly five pounds of pressure per square foot on one's roof, the same weight can be achieved with only three to five inches of packed snow and only one inch of ice. Ultimately, these

elements can really begin to do serious damage to a roof if around twenty to twenty five pounds of pressure per square foot is achieved.

More specifically, pressure of this amount can cause a number of structural failures to a home, including sagging ceiling tiles and ceiling boards falling out of the ceiling grid, cracks in walls, masonry and wood

members, severe roof leaks and door and windows no longer being able to open or close, just to name a few complications, as well as possible collapse of the home itself.

As much of an impact that the weight of this snow can have on a home's structure, it is far from the only factor, as everything from unbalanced snow load,

excessive moisture from melting snow or rain-on-snow loads and even the geometry of the roof can exacerbate an already bad situation. In the situation that it is determined that the snow should be removed from one's rooftop, the job should always be undertaken by a professional contractor with familiarity of regional snow conditions.

However, for those who wish to undertake the task themselves, there are many measures that must be followed in order to prevent personal injury or property damage. Before any snow removal, keep another person on hand to keep foot traffic away from locations where snow, ice or icicles may fall on a person or fragile equipment. Also try to

keep track of buried skylights and where the snow will fall to avoid being in the path of the falling snow.

When removing the snow, its best to use plastic, unsharpened tools as to avoid damaging the roof membrane. Be sure to avoid stockpiling the snow on areas of the roof and focus on sending it towards designated areas on the ground, but it would be smart to leave a couple of inches of snow on the roof to avoid exposing and damaging the roof. It also helps to identify which parts of the roof should be prioritized first, such as points of elevation change, before tackling the bulk of the snow.

For more information, visit fema.gov.

Derry School Budget

continued from page 1

at roughly eighty six million, two hundred and sixty thousand dollars, which is set to be voted on come March 13. If not, the default budget will be passed instead, set at eighty six million, seven hundred and twenty thousand dollars. Either would be replacing last year's budget of eighty six million, sixty thousand dollars, assuring an increase either way. If the proposed budget were to be approved, residents can also expect a fifty three cent tax impact.

Staffing will be seeing several increases and decreases in the proposed budget, as the district plans on adding three and a half special education teachers, half of a guidance counselor and two in-school suspension assistants.

However, they will also be eliminating three special education assistants, three elementary school teachers and two middle school English teachers. It should be noted that a half of a position equals a part time

position.

Amongst the more major fiscal changes in the proposed budget are three hundred thousand dollars for a budgeted retirement incentive and an increase of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars for out-of-district special education tuition. But on the opposite end of the spectrum, health and dental insurance costs decreased by seven hundred and twenty thousand dollars, while there was also a utilities decrease of ninety four thousand dollars.

And one of the most critical elements of the budget introduced three annual payments of two hundred and fifty five thousand dollars to update the district's technology plan, which has managed to lag behind modern standards with its current technology.

"This was one of our critical pieces to the budget", Simard noted.

Upon entering the public hearing, Town Councilor James Morgan brought the fifty three cent tax impact to

the attention of the board, noting that such an impact would equate to roughly one million, three hundred thousand dollars in revenue and wanted to confirm whether or not this would be a decrease to the town.

The board confirmed that it would be a decrease, primarily through a combination of state funding and reducing the unreserved fund.

At the end of the hearing, Board Chair Dan McKenna noted that he was quite pleased with the budget process and thanked those responsible for their months of hard work, especially for managing to cut roughly two million dollars from the originally proposed budget.

"There was some good dialogue about the budget and different aspects about the budget", McKenna noted.

With the budget's warrant article approved by the board, a deliberative session is set to take place on Feb. 10 at 10 a.m. at West Running Brook, followed by a vote on the article at the March 13 elections.

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Editorial

Everyone Has A Say

To the residents who stayed at home while their elected officials crafted school and town budgets, and to those who chose not to air their concerns during recent public hearings, we trust that you are satisfied with the final numbers that resulted from these meetings.

But now that the hearings are over, your next shot at participatory democracy comes at the Deliberative Sessions and Town Meetings. It's not too late to offer your well thought out and practical suggestions for saving your town money, or to offer your thanks if you feel that your elected officials have paid attention to the woes of the taxpayers.

Of course, there's one other thing you can do, particularly if you are passionate about fiscal and personal responsibility. Is it frustrating to state your case and feel that no one is listening? You can see to it that that changes by running for elected office yourself.

From January 24 through February 2, the filing period is open for town and school district offices (check our calendar listings for details specific to your town).

If you're willing to put in the effort (and it will definitely require effort), sign up for a seat on your school board or town council. Don't let the apathy that brought out only one or two people to budget hearings continue into the upcoming election.

If you have great love for your community, are truly willing to listen to others, seek a middle ground among differing opinions, have a thick skin, and are willing to put in long evenings to serve your constituents, we encourage you to put your name in the running (those with personal agendas need not apply).

In a country founded on citizen participation, in a state where the voice of the individual is honored, and in towns with small enough populations that the voice of individual citizens is more easily heard, elected office is a possibility for anyone who cares enough to make an effort.

With a position in Town Council or your town's School Board, you'll know what's really going on, have a say in what happens next, and be responsible for helping your town move forward. You'll truly be part of your community, as well as a part of democracy in action.

At your local newspaper, we only cover the news, we do not make it. If you're unhappy with what you're reading in your weekly town paper, but are unable to run for a seat, sit on a board, or speak up at meeting, then please let your voice be heard by sending us your letters to the editor! We want to know your thoughts along with others in your town.

Change happens with action, so if you're unsatisfied with the status quo, take action to make a change!

Letters

State Retirement System Bill

Dear editor,

Recently I wrote a letter to the editor asking Derry's 10 state representatives to vote in favor of HB 413 to restore a 15% payment by the State toward the NH Retirement System. When the NH Retirement System was originally established,

the State agreed to contribute between 25 and 40% of the payments into the retirement system for the benefit of local governmental employees, police, teachers, and administrators. In 2011, under Republican Speaker O'Brien, the State completely abandoned all payments and for the last six years, this requirement to fund the Retirement System has been passed on to you and me in the form of higher property taxes. Unfortunately, when HB 413 came up for a vote on the House floor last week, none of our State Representatives voted in favor. Once again, leaving the local taxpayers to fund the entire bill. What a tragedy.

Mary Till
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 nutfieldnews@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.

January Warm Up Brings Flooding to Local Roadways



An area of Route 102 between Tsienneto and Beaver Roads had some significant problems over the weekend when warm temperatures coupled with steady overnight rain caused flooding from nearby Beaver Lake. Tempertures dropped below freezing later in the day making for additional issues. *Photo by Chris Paul*

Nutfield News

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South Range Students Work Together in Human Board Game



Students and staff members at South Range Elementary School participated in a morning of team-building activities last week during a visit from Ben Wachstein of Academic Entertainment. The program, brought to the school by the PTA, split grades up into three teams that squared off in the "Ultimate Human Board Game." The event featured a life-size board game where students rolled a die to move along the board and determine what activity the teams would compete in. Games included; A lip-sync battle, with teacher paired up with students; hula hoop competition; puzzle making; Wrapping students in toilet paper; and a card game. Teams accrued points with each win with a winner being names at the end of the event. *Photos by Chris Paul*

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Annual Potter's Bowl Serves Up Soup and Service

KATIE O'DONNELL
NUTFIELD NEWS

Charity comes in all forms, and sometimes it can be found in a simple bowl of soup. For the last 12 years, Community Caregivers of Greater Derry has hosted their annual "Potter's Bowl" to raise money to continue providing services for disabled and elderly locals in need. This year it will be on Saturday, Jan. 27 at the Pinkerton Academy Freshman Cafeteria.

The Potter's Bowl offers patrons that beloved cold-weather comfort food, hot fresh soup served in bowls crafted by local vendors. The bowls are hand made and donated by artisans, some of whom come to the event.

"We get pottery bowls from artists all over the state," said Julie Levesque of Community Caregivers. She exclaimed that "it's really nice" when the potters come to the dinner. "They set up a table and people choose a bowl with the price of a ticket." There are even bowls just for kids to make the event more

family friendly.

After picking their preferred piece of pottery, attendees can fill up on over a dozen varieties of soup from 14 local restaurants. Even the Pinkerton Academy Culinary Arts program gets involved. Chef Keith Desjardin said 10 to 12 of his students created a menu and will be serving once the soup's on. Those who enjoyed the Astro Café's butternut squash bisque last year can look forward to a tasty revival.

Students in the program must participate in a catering event like the Potter's Bowl as a course requirement. Desjardin said it "helps them practice" working on large scale events from set up to take down. The goal for this event was to have the students plan and execute a recipe that can feed up to 200 people.

"It's a big experience for them," Desjardin explained.

Community Caregivers is hoping to entice attendees with more than just some chicken soup for the soul, though. Michael

Gooden, also from Pinkerton Academy, will be doing a live pottery wheel demonstration before dinner and DJ Sharon Deluca will be playing music throughout the evening. Levesque said there will be a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction. Artists from all over New England have donated a variety of goods to the auction, including art, photos, jewelry and hand carved wooden crafts.

"Basically everything's donated," said Levesque. Local grocers donate gift cards to put towards supplies like gluten-free breads and balloons, while florists bring in flower arrangements for the tables. Volunteers also come in and help set up the event.

"These people want to do it," remarked Levesque. "The community gets together. It's a great night."

Through the ticket sales, raffle and auction, Levesque said Community Caregivers is hoping to take in between \$8,000 to \$10,000. That's roughly what the group made during last year's Potter's Bowl.

"It's our biggest

fundraiser," said Levesque.

The money raised during the Potter's Bowl goes towards keeping Community Caregivers running by funding its operation budget. The organization is able to provide constant community care through the efforts of its five staff and dedicated volunteers. Levesque said they have everyone from middle schoolers to adults donate whatever time they can to the elderly and disabled clients of the non-profit.

The volunteers do a variety of things, like provide transportation to and from medical and dental appointments, to doing small household chores or yard work. There's even a "Loaner's Closet" of medical equipment from canes

and commodes to blood pressure kits and bed pans that can be borrowed for free.

The volunteers are matched to the clients by Executive Director Cindee Tanuma, who started the Potter's Bowl 13 years ago. She discovers the likes and dislikes of the clients and volunteers, then pairs them up accordingly. For example, if a young volunteer is thinking of entering the service, he or she would likely be paired with a veteran who wants to reminisce and encourage the next generation to enlist.

"It's pretty rare a match doesn't work out," said Levesque. She explained that Tanuma really takes the common interests into consideration because "it tends

to be a long-term thing."

Levesque and her fellow staff look forward to the Potter's Bowl because it sheds a light on their mission while bringing the community together. "They know we're doing good things," she said.

Anyone who would like to sample some soup for a cause can come to the Potter's Bowl from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27 at the Pinkerton Academy Freshman Cafeteria in Derry. Tickets are \$40 each for adults and \$10 each for children under 12. They can be bought by calling Community Caregivers at (603) 432-0877 x1 or by visiting their office during the work day at 1B Commons Drive, Unit 10 in Londonderry.

Open Positions

continued from page 1
Derry.

Finally, five trustee positions are available. As a trustee, one's duty is to direct the funds and policies of the area that said position is identified with, preserving capital and other functions as they see fit.

Amongst the five positions are a three year term as the Trustee of Trust Funds for the town, one three year term as a Taylor Library Trustee and three terms for positions for Derry Public Library Trustees, two of which last three years and one which lasts two years.

For those who wish to become candidates for these positions, you must file in person with the Town Clerk at the Derry Municipal Center between January 24 and February 2. Candidates must be at least eighteen years old, registered voters and live in the town of Derry.

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Young Minds Introduced To Engineering by Derry Library Program

ALEX GUITTARR
NUTFIELD NEWS

With its many hands-on educational programs, the Derry Public Library is always looking to expand the minds of Derry residents of all ages. And the younger citizens got one such opportunity during the first of several STEM Building Challenge events held at the library on Jan. 11.

Led by the Director of Children's Services, Raymond Fontaine, these STEM, or science, technology, engineering and mathematics, activities were

inspired by similar events held in the summer, where participants were tasked with building small bridges.

With about six children signed up for the activity, Fontaine took the first few minutes to explain to the children just how important science and engineering are to society, highlighting the likes of cars and computers that were made possible by these fields.

But Fontaine was also quick to note that the activities they were faced with were not of that caliber of importance. Rather, this would not be a competition,

but a chance to experiment; an opportunity to gain insight into the roles of physics in our everyday world.

"There's no right and wrong here", Fontaine noted.

Fontaine started out the program relatively simply by having the children produce tall cylinders and triangular and rectangular prisms out of construction paper before stacking a series of small books on them to see how sturdy and stable each shape could prove to be, with some holding as many as eight or nine books.

But the real experimentation came later. After showing the children a video expanding upon the uses of water towers, Fontaine challenged the children to create their own out of the supplies provided, including tin foil, craft sticks, straws, string and tape. All of these sup-

plies would be used to suspend a small plastic cup several inches off the floor and hold the cup in place as Fontaine slowly poured water into it to test the structural integrity of each tower.

While some children worked alone and others worked in groups, all of

them proved to have strong creative sides by utilizing a little bit of everything that was supplied to them to create structures that, for the most part, withstood Fontaine's test.

For more information about these and other activities, visit derrypl.org.

School Food Server Union Seeks Approval for Potential Raise

ALEX GUITTARR
NUTFIELD NEWS

As much as residents value their educators in Derry and what they do for their children, it is always key to keep in mind all the staff members working throughout the school district, including its food service employees that give kids the energy to focus on their studies.

But in order to assure that they earn what they feel are fair wages for their work, food servers throughout the Derry School District recently created their own chapter of the United Food and Commercial Workers union (UFCW), labeled Local 1445, to work with the district on these matters.

Formed in 1979, the UFCW works in combination with other union organizations across the country to earn higher wages and better working conditions,

such as the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, the Retail Clerks International Union and the Boot and Shoe Workers Union, just a name a few.

None of the food service employees had been part of any sort of collective bargaining union prior to this, but after forming their own chapter in October, members of the union entered discussions with the Derry School Board to bring about a possible pay increase for the district, excluding Pinkerton Academy. Headed by board members Paul Lutz, Lynn Perkins and Michelle McKinnon, the discussions allowed for a warrant article to be created with the aim of granting a raise of fifty cents per hour for employees within the union.

The raise would lead to an increase in the budget by eighteen thousand, five hundred and ninety four

dollars, an amount that would be added to the next two annual budgets. It should be noted that these funds will not be coming out of the general fund and will instead be supported by its own revenue, as well as various federal funds, meaning that no tax impact will be caused by the warrant article if it is passed by voters.

While discussing the matter at the board's most recent meeting on January 9, School Board Chair Dan McKenna seemed glad to be working with the union, noting how long district staff have been working to solidify these changes and that he personally hopes that tax payers approve the warrant article.

"I know it was a long negotiation process", McKenna noted.

The article is set to go before voter on March 13 for approval.



Children's Services Director, Raymond Fontaine tests one of several "water towers" constructed by children at the Derry Public Library for its stability during a STEM Building Challenge event last week.

Photo by Alex Guittarr



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Pinkerton Academy Hosts First VEX Robotics Competition

ALEX GUITTARR
NUTFIELD NEWS

With all of the key roles that robotics play in the development of modern culture, it is never too early to give children the opportunity to take interest in the field and get a taste of the capabilities of the field.

VEX Robotics is a group that is at the forefront of these efforts. An ongoing international robotics competition for the last decade, the fast-growing organization hosts tournaments for everyone from elementary students to college students, tasking them with building robots to complete a variety of objectives within an allotted amount of time.

Pinkerton Academy is no stranger to these competitions, as it recently hosted its first VEX Robotics tournament in the Shepard Building on Jan. 13, bringing

ing fifty five teams from all across New England for the chance to move on to the regional competition at Manchester Community College and eventually the world finals in Louisville, Kentucky in April.

Pinkerton itself had six teams entering the competition, made up of around fifty members, with their coach, Engineering Instructor Ernie Biron, at the center of it all. Biron was adamant in his support of both his student's efforts and the VEX program, noting that it has grown so quickly that it even recently broke the Guinness World Record for largest robotics competition in April of 2016, as their world finals brought in around one thousand competing teams.

Although not nearly that large, Pinkerton's tournament brought in between three and four hundred people to support the many



Two of the six PA teams try to acquire point with their robots on Saturday during the VEX Robotics competition held at Pinkerton on Saturday.

teams as they competed in the Shepard Building's auditorium while utilizing the downstairs cafeteria to pre-

pare and repair their robots throughout the day, as each team's robot could compete as many as six times during the proceedings.

"Whenever you have these competitions, things happen", Biron noted.

As for what the robots were tasked with doing, they worked through VEX's latest game known as "In the Zone". In it, two aligned teams using a two robots a piece worked within a twelve foot by twelve foot arena to stack a variety of cones in specified areas of the arena or on other objects to score points, first in a fifteen second period where the robots operate autonomously on a pre-designed program before being manually con-



Pinkerton Academy team "Chaos" member Matt Handley makes some adjustments to his team's robot between competitions on Saturday. Photos by Chris Paul

trolled for one minute and forty five seconds.

Amongst Pinkerton's six teams, labeled Team 241 A through F, teams A through D managed to make it into the Top 24, where eight alliances of three teams worked together to make their way to at least the semifinals, which would net them a spot in the regional competition.

Brandon Simpson, one of several members for Team 241A, noted that his interest in robotics started at a young age when he got his first lego kit. Now into his third year with Pinkerton's robotics club, he feels that the group has become like a family to him and is now eyeing a career in mechani-

cal engineering and robotics in Boston in the future.

"I always thought it was super cool", Simpson noted.

And while none of the final four teams for Pinkerton managed to make it past the quarter finals of the competition, the day still ended on a positive note, as Simpson's team managed to win the Design Award, given by the competition's judges for the team that showcased the most technical prowess in their robot, still earning them a place at the regional competition.

Simpson, along with Katie Allen, Gabe Demanche, Allyson Turner, Sal Chaturvedi, Nik Khan and Aiden Pratt, will be competing at the regionals on Feb. 17.

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DERRY SPORTS

Pinkerton Hockey Advances to 6-0 With Blowout, OT Victories

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

A walloping of a Manchester opponent followed by an overtime edging of its rival last week left the Pinkerton Academy hockey team contemplating the 6-0 record it had gained in its first Division I games of the 2017-18 campaign.

The Astros made their D-I record a perfect 5-0 with a 9-1 hammering of the home-standing Manchester Memorial Crusaders at the JFK Coliseum Wednesday, Jan. 10.

The locals scored twice in the first period, twice more in the second, and five times in the third in bagging the big decision, which made Memorial 1-4 on the still-young campaign.

The overwhelming PA performance, which featured some 45 shots on the Crusaders' net, was paced by two goals apiece from senior forward Cody Sullivan and freshman front-liner Cooper Flinton and a 20-save effort from sophomore backup goalie Matt Gilliland.

The Astros then moved to their rivalry game against the visiting Londonderry High Lancers at The Ice Den in Hooksett on Friday, Jan. 12, with the visitors having gone nearly an entire week without having played a game. LHS had dropped its

previous two matches to Trinity and Bedford in slipping to 3-3.

But if the history of the Pinkerton/Londonderry sports rivalry has taught spectators anything, its that one has to toss records into the trash when it comes to PA and LHS teams facing off in just about any sport the vast majority of the time.

The hockey contest between the two local teams was everything fans of the two schools' athletic programs have come to expect over the decades and nothing like what a rank newcomer to the rivalry might expect from a 5-0 team facing an opponent sitting right at the .500 mark.

The D-I battle was fast-paced from the start, hard-hitting, intense, and wildly-entertaining for the large crowd which watched all 45 minutes and 24 seconds of action.

Pinkerton led 1-0 after one period and 2-1 after two, but the Lancers knotted the score at 2-2 a little more than three minutes into the third period but were unable to bust that deadlock in regulation time despite subsequently being given a full four minutes of power-play time when an Astro drew an ill-advised double-minor penalty with 7:40 showing on the clock.

Regulation play concluded with the score knot-



Lancer Jared Tuccolo, left, and Astro Pat Hare face off during their teams' game. Photo by Chris Pantazis

ted up right there at 2-2, but Pinkerton made a booming statement by allowing overtime to only go 24 seconds before senior forward Ty Rivier sent his Astro bunch and its fans into full celebration mode by scoring a beautifully set up goal.

Both teams were able to step away from the rink that evening feeling as though they'd play extremely well. But Pinkerton was able to grab the climactic victory and the ugly fact for the Lancers was that they'd just suffered their third consecutive divisional defeat.

The host Astros notched

was just expiring at that second, the goal was of the shorthanded variety.

Both teams put nine shots on the opposing net during those first 15 minutes, and that stat exhibited just how close play was.

The Lancers got the equalizing goal just under six minutes into the second period on a pretty play of their own. Junior forward Patrick Murphy stole the puck from a Pinkerton defender in front of the PA net and lifted a backhander into the top-right corner of the net just over PA keeper Dakota Robinson's left shoulder.

But the score would only be deadlocked for 2:19 as Pinkerton reclaimed the lead with 6:42 remaining in the second when Sullivan sent Riviere off on a breakaway on Cam Donovan and the PA senior did not miss.

The Astros' 2-1 lead on the scoreboard and in shots on net in the second period (12-11) continued to show that these two rivals are neck and neck with each other, competitively speaking.

But 3:08 into the third period Lancer Nick Pitarys was sent in alone on Dakota

Robinson by Jared Tuccolo, and Pitarys beat the PA keeper with a beautifully-placed, high wrist-shot.

But the Astros would survive the aforementioned four-minute penalty span before the period was over, and the score sat at 2-2 so overtime was required.

However, the host Astros made it perfectly clear that they had no interest in playing much of the eight-minute overtime at all, and they ended the matter with some pretty passing from Sullivan to Taylor Whiting behind the Londonderry net, and then out front to Riviere who would not miss in scoring his second goal of the night.

"We used the time between the end of the third and the start of the overtime to set up a play," said PA coach Sam Littlefield. "We wanted to win the draw and push the pick right into their zone, and the guys executed it."

Pinkerton finished up with a relatively small shots on net advantage of 34-29 to go along with their one-goal win, with Robinson making 27 saves and the opposing keeper Donovan notching 31.

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Astro Boys' Basketball Crew Scuffles Into a D-I Losing Skid

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

Since winning its first Division I game of the 2017-18 season before Christmas, the Pinkerton

Academy boys' basketball squad has gone winless in that tough league.

And longtime PA coach Peter Rosinski's Astros absorbed their third and fourth consecutive defeats

last week, sliding to 1-4 in D-I with losses to a sea-coast opponent and then one considerably closer geographically.

The Astros saw their Division I record slip to 1-3 with their third consecutive divisional loss at Portsmouth High School last Tuesday, Jan. 9. The host Clippers clipped the academy cagers by a 72-56 tally that evening.

The hosts won every quarter but the second and grasped leads of 13-8 after one period, 26-24 at the half, and then 48-38 rolling

into the last stanza. Portsmouth then outscored the locals by a 24-18 margin in the fourth in putting the final touches on its success.

Sam Goy (19 points), Cason Giordano (10) and Jack Potvin (10) all scored in double figures for PA on a losing night. All in all, seven Astros contributed points.

And things didn't get any better for the academy side at home on their own court three nights later when they hosted the Alvirne High Broncos from

Hudson and took a 58-41 loss on the chin.

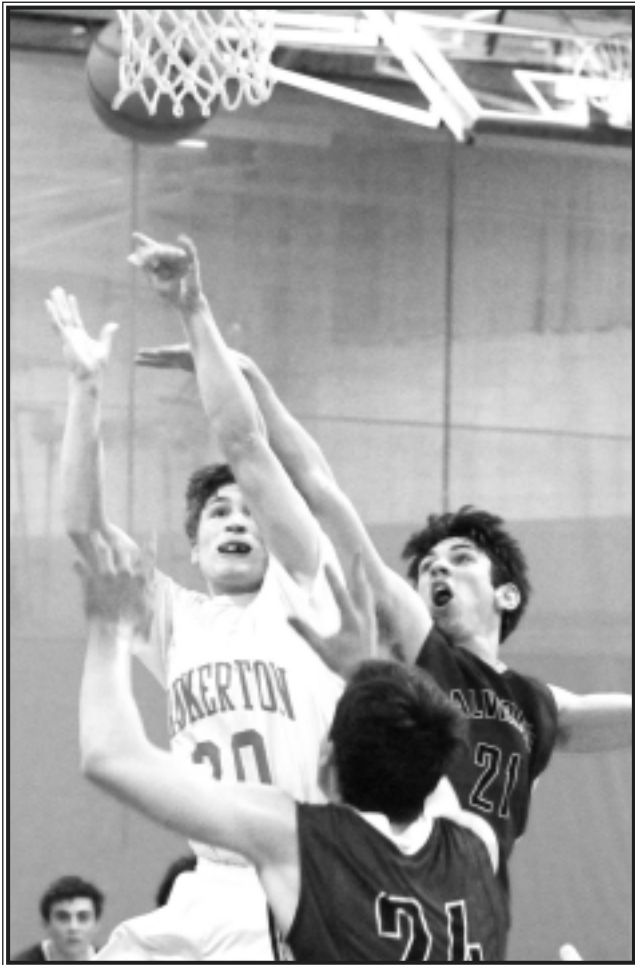
The Broncos bounced their divisional record up to 4-1 by winning every quarter but the fourth. The visitors led 12-9 after one period, 29-17 at halftime, and by a 51-34 count after three stanzas had been completed.

Pinkerton netted 23 points to the Broncos' 19 in period four, but a full comeback just wasn't in the cards for the hosts.

Andrew Lufkin paced the PA offense by tallying 19 points and Goy was

good for 17 during an evening when the home-standing Astros had nine players make the score sheet.

Coach Rosinski's roster then rolled into this week looking at a slate of two games as it attempted to rediscover the winning path. The first was scheduled for this Wednesday Jan. 17 on the seacoast at Winnacunnet High in Hampton - after Nutfield News press time - followed by a home game against the Manchester Central Little Green this Friday night.



PA senior Jack Potvin gets a shot off past an Alvirne defender during play last week. Photo by Chris Paul

Academy Bowlers Bag Five Points in a Four-Team Match in Merrimack

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

A strong showing in both standard-round play and then Baker-round play in a four-team battle at Merrimack Ten Pin last Saturday, Jan. 14 left the Pinkerton Academy bowling squad with plenty of reasons to be proud of itself.

The Astros wound up

seeded third following standard competition, and they then ended up falling to one opponent but beating another in Baker play on a pretty strong day.

The Astros faced off with the Bishop Guertin Cardinals of Nashua, the host Merrimack Tomahawks, and the Hillsboro-Deering Hillcats in the match.

In the aforementioned

standard level competition, coach Janet Boyden's PA crew tallied game scores of 796 and 698 for a total score of 1,485 to finish behind top-seeded Merrimack and BG but ahead of Hillsboro-Deering.

The locals got strong individual work from Dan Kirichok (games of 137 and 144), Jason Barton (131 and 136), co-captain Lauren Sylvain (164 and 102), Meghan Slater (147 and 100), and co-captain Keenan Nash (217 and 207).

The third-ranked locals then faced off with number two BG and dropped Baker games of 165-136 and 163-157. But Pinkerton then rebounded nicely to defeat

the fourth-seeded Hillcats in a pair of 148-132 contests.

"That second game came down to the last two frames thanks to a strike from Barton in the ninth and three strikes in the 10th from Nash," said coach Boyden.

In junior varsity play, the Astros got strong play from Bryant Nourse, Elijah Johnson, Sean Forkey, and Zac Emery and went 1-1 with a victory over Bishop Guertin.

The academy squads will be back in competitive action on the road again this Saturday the 20th when they travel over to Hillsboro for a multi-team event on unfamiliar lanes.

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Pinkerton Girls' Basketball Bucks Broncos in Blowout Win

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

Two teams apparently going in opposite directions in Division I girls' basketball

this winter faced off in Hudson last Friday night, Jan. 12, and continued right on their current courses.

The Pinkerton Academy girls' basketball squad drove

its divisional record up to an excellent 4-1 and dropped the Alvirne High Lady Broncos' mark to 1-4 with a 64-37 walloping of that host.

Veteran coach Lani

Buskey's Lady Astros won each and every quarter, grasping leads of 22-13 after one period, 33-18 at the half, and 46-24 at the completion of three before outscoring

their hosts by an 18-13 margin in quarter four.

The powerful Pinkerton attack was paced by Brooke Kane with 16 points, Alicia D'Onofrio and Amanda Lemire with 15 points apiece, and Jesse Ames with nine.

Coach Buskey's bunch

then sought its third consecutive victory this Wednesday the 17th when it hosted the Winnacunnet High Lady Warriors of Hampton - after Nutfield News press time - before a Friday night meeting with Manchester Central in the Queen City.

Pinkerton Skiers Excel in Slalom Competition on Pat's Peak Slopes

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

Neither the defending state champion Pinkerton Academy girls' ski team nor the academy's male skiers could be beaten in slalom competition on the slopes at Pat's Peak in Henniker last Thursday, Jan. 11.

The Lady Astros were first out of six squads - and 14 points better than the runner-up Lady Lancers from Londonderry High - while

the PA boys also bested five opposing squads with the Timberlane Regional Owls from Plaistow finishing some 18 points behind them.

"It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you ski the course. But it's very nice to win, and that's just what the kids did today," said proud PA coach Paul D'Antonio.

The defending state champions finished with a point tally of 385 and bested Londonderry (371), Nashua North (361), Timberlane

(347), Spaulding of Rochester (334), and Nashua South (326).

Lady Astro star Danielle Martineau was a dominant individual, taking first both for her squad and overall out of a field of 49 competitors with a combined time of 59.67 seconds. Right behind her was PA captain Hannah Peterson with a time of 1:03.09. Third for the victorious locals was Katelyn Bennett (1:05.17), and fourth for PA was Kathryn

Leighton (1:19.43).

The Pinkerton guys amassed some 383 points to outdistance Timberlane (365), Londonderry (352), Nashua North (346), Nashua South (345), and Spaulding (333).

The winners had Owen Sezgin pace the boys' event with his combined time of 58.50 in a field of 51 skiers. Kenneth McCarthy placed second for the team with a time of 1:10.73, Dylan Durazzano was third with his 1:11.62, and Zach Kahn placed fourth for the locals with his finish of 1:13.09.

The academy squads will be back on those same Henniker slopes this Thursday the 18th - after Nutfield News press time - for a giant slalom event hosted by Nashua North and including several other opponents.

Lady Astro Gymnasts Pound Their Way to More Successes

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

The defending state champion Pinkerton Academy girls' gymnastics squad kept piling up the successes in 2017-18 meets this past Monday, tallying a gigantic team score of 138.15 in beating five opponents at Palaestra Gymnastics in Derry.

Nashua South finished

second, Dover bagged third, Milford was fourth, and Souhegan of Amherst brought up the rear in fifth.

The Lady Astros were led by juniors Ashlee Loeffler, Audrey Hill, and Emily Connors in the decisive victory, with Loeffler winning on vault and taking third in the all-around.

Connors claimed third on balance beam and second in the all-around,

while Hill won the beam and was third on vault and floor.

Freshman Zoe Demers placed first on bars, third on beam, and second on floor. Sophia Viger won floor and bagged second on bars.

The academy crew next goes up against the arch-rival Londonderry High Lancers on Monday Jan. 22.

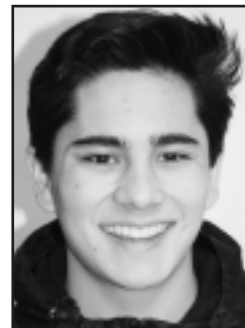
Athletes of the Week

Week of Jan. 8



**Amanda Lemire, Senior,
Girls' Basketball**

The Lady Astros' talented court general and captain has led the team to a 4-1 start to their season so far. And against Alvirne she scored 15 points to help the squad to a 65-37 victory over the Lady Broncos.



**Ty Riviere, Senior,
Ice Hockey**

This talented veteran point-producer has played a significant role for his team this winter, and he assumed the role of hero against Londonderry recently by potting an overtime goal.

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Pinkerton Wrestlers Bested by Visiting Crimson Tide Crew

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

Year after year there are several New Hampshire high schools which produce some of the most dominant teams and athletes in Granite State Division I wrestling.

And the Pinkerton Academy wrestling squad welcomed one of those crews into its Hackler Gymnasium last week and received a reminder regard why that opponent is always so tough.

The Astro grapplers played host to the extremely tough Concord High

Crimson Tide on Wednesday, Jan. 10, and got washed over by the tide by a 50-12 tally.

Pinkerton's weight class victories were delivered by Tyler Mackiernan on a pin in 145-pound weight class action - 3:44 into that bout - and by Sterling McLaughlin at 182 pounds on an even quicker pin just 1:23 into his bout.

The locals were then slated to make a lengthy road trip to Rhode Island on Saturday the 13th to take part in the Cumberland High School Invitational.

And coach Dave Rhoads' Pinkerton roster did quite

well at that event - officially named the John Gorman Memorial Tournament - placing a strong fifth out of some 20 teams.

The Astros had a handful of their grapplers finish top-six in their respective weight classes in bringing home medals after finishing with a team tally of 121 points, behind only the tourney champs from Bristol Eastern (221), North Attleborough (207.5), host Cumberland (181), and North Andover (139).

Mackiernan went a perfect 4-0 in winning his division's crown, Robbie Fahey was 2-1 in finishing as the

runner-up in his 220-pound class, Kyle Setzer went a fine 3-1 in snagging third in his 170-pound division, David Hammond went 3-2 and placed fourth in his 120-pound class, and Will Brown won two of his five bouts to finish sixth in the 160-pound class. Single bout victories were registered by Astros Dom Robinson at 106 pounds and Walker Stinson at 113.

The academy wrestlers will next compete at the Springfield High School of Science and Technology "Springfield Duals" in Massachusetts this coming Saturday the 20th.



Astros' veteran wrestler Kyle Setzer, top, gave his all against Concord.
Photo by Chris Pantazis

Academy Swimmers Test Themselves at the Bobcat Invitational

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

A group of highly-skilled Pinkerton Academy swimmers tested their mettle at the big Bobcat Invitational at the University

of New Hampshire this past Sunday, Jan. 14. And some of the best Astros bagged top-six finishes at that major event.

The top Pinkerton finish was delivered by Lady Astro stalwart Zoe Freedman, who

notched a second place in the 100-meter freestyle (time of 59.11 seconds) to go along with a fourth in the 100-meter breaststroke (1:16.71).

The locals also had Olivia Neville tally a third in

the 500 free (5:50.53) and a fourth in the 200 free (2:09.28), with Maya Hedstrom bagging a fourth behind Neville in the 500 free (6:00.04).

On the boys' side of things, Pinkerton standout

Gordon Suwirjo was his usual reliable and impressive self, finishing fourth in the 100-meter breaststroke (1:12.70) and fifth in the 100 free (53.04), and his teammate Jackson Neeb nabbed a fine fourth place finish in the

500 freestyle (5:28.04).

The two academy teams return to the water this Saturday in their home pool at Southern New Hampshire University for a multi-team meet in which they hope to keep excelling.

Pinkerton Track Contingents Excel at League Meet in Durham

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

The Pinkerton Academy boys' indoor track and field squad finished first out of seven teams and the PA Lady Astro tracksters placed second out of nine crews in the most recent league meet

action at the University of New Hampshire this past Sunday, Jan. 14.

Coach Ian French's Astro males tallied a team score of 88.50 to comfortably outdistance second place Concord (70.50) and five other contingents on the Sweet Oval at UNH.

And coach Mike Karthas' PA girls notched a team score of 64 to finish behind only the victorious Bedford High Lady Bulldogs (89) but ahead of seven other squads.

BOYS

The academy males received event wins from Joe Gagnon in the 3,000-meter run (time of 9 min-

utes, 16.34 seconds), Adam Spencer in the 55-meter hurdles (8.04), Kaleal Cerafici in the shot put (43 feet, 1 inch), and the 4x160 relay team of Avery Battle, Conor Seleny, Kayden Baillargeon, and Jadyn Ruimwijk (1:15.84) as well as the 4x400 quartet of Noah Woodman, Pat Hanlon, Ruimwijk, and Spencer (3:45.74).

Second places came from Seleny in the 55 hurdles, Spencer in the high jump, and John Brooks in the long jump, and thirds were delivered by Ruimwijk in the 55 dash, Battle in the long jump, and John King in the shot.

GIRLS

The Lady Astros' strong performance was powered by wins from Ciara April in the 1,000-meter run (3:10.24), Meghan Cross in the 1,500 run (5:06.64), Britney Johnson in the 600 run (1:43.89), Emily Lesburt in the high jump (5'2"), and

the skilled and determined 4x400 group of Macy Graves, Jordan Vaillancourt, Johnson, and Amelia Graves.

Second places were registered by Cross in the 1,000, Molly McGaffigan in the 1,500, and Adria Forand in the 55 hurdles, and Vaillancourt managed to contribute a third place in the 600.

The two academy teams will return to competitive action this coming Sunday at the University of Southern Maine in a meet featuring multiple contingents.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

Elijah's Table

Elijah's Table, a joint project of Etz Hayim Synagogue and the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. We will be serving a free community dinner on Jan. 21. Serving time is at 5 - 6:15 p.m., and will be held at the Etz Hayim Synagogue at 1-1/2 Hood Rd., Derry. The atmosphere is informal and friendly, warm and toasty. Meet up with old friends, make new friends, and have a great meal. For more information on free meals in the Derry area, please go to <http://freemealsinderry.blogspot.com>

Potters Bowl

On Saturday, Jan. 27, Community Caregivers of Greater Derry is hosting their 13th Annual Potter's Bowl fundraiser from 5 - 8 p.m. at the Pinkerton Academy Freshman Cafeteria in Derry. For \$40, patrons are able to

pick a handcrafted pottery bowl donated by local NH artists, and enjoy over a dozen different soups donated from local restaurants in the Derry area as well as delicious breads & desserts. In an effort to encourage more families with children, we will be selling a Kids Under 12 ticket for just \$10. A pottery wheel demonstration will be occurring in the hour prior to the event for waiting patrons. Auction items donated from other New England artists and craftsmen include oil, acrylic and water color paintings, matted photography, wooden crafts, clothing and handcrafted jewelry. The value of all art donated amounts to over \$5,000. It is not too late to donate your fine art, pottery or homemade craft to a good cause. To purchase tickets to the event, please call Caregivers at 432-0877 x 1 or drop by 1B Commons Drive, Unit 10,

Londonderry, during the business day.

Youth Free Throw Competition

Local Knights of Columbus Councils from St. Mark, St. Thomas, St. Jude and St. Peter to Sponsor Youth Free Throw Championship. All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2018 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. The local competition will be held Saturday, Jan. 20, from 1 - 4 p.m. (registration begins at 12:30 p.m.) at St. Thomas Aquinas Center Gymnasium in Derry. Participants are required to furnish a birth certificate as proof of age and written parental consent.

Free Meals

Please join us for free, family-friendly meals, served in a relaxed atmosphere.

Meals are generally held as posted below, but may be rescheduled for holidays. Please call the facility to check on holiday times. We look forward to seeing you! Dinner on Jan. 20, at St. Luke's Derry, from 5 - 6:30 p.m.; Dinner on Jan. 21, at Etz Hayim Synagogue Derry, from 5 - 6:15 p.m.; Dinner on Jan. 26, at First Parish Derry, from 5 - 6:30 p.m.; Breakfast on Jan. 28, at Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration Derry, from 9 - 10 a.m.; Lunch on Jan. 28, at St. Jude's, Londonderry, from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. For more information, please visit: <http://freemealsinderry.blogspot.com>

New Hours

Current Hours for the Derry Public Library: Mon.-Thu. 9:30 a.m.- 8:30 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Tiny Tots

A storytime for ages 6 months - 2 years meets Mondays and Fridays at 10 a.m. at the Taylor Public Library. Space is limited so called the library at 432-7186 to register or with questions.

Story Hour with a Craft

A story hour with a themed craft is available for

children ages 2 - 5 years old on Wednesdays and Sundays at 1 p.m. at the Taylor Public Library. Space is limited so called the library at 432-7186 to register or with questions.

Walking Together

A support group for widows and widowers meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Londonderry Presbyterian Church, 128 Pillsbury Road, Londonderry. Lets walk together. If you have any questions please call 781-866-9976.

Lamplighters

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

St. Gianna's Closet

St. Gianna's Closet provides free children's clothing to any family in the community that is in need. It is now well-stocked with sizes birth to teen as well as winter coats. Please contact Liz at 437-6678 to receive clothing.

Walk with Me

Are you losing or have lost someone? A child, a parent, a sibling or a friend? It can be a painful journey but you don't have to walk it alone anymore. Just come "Walk With Me".

Meetings are the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m., at the Londonderry Presbyterian Church, 128 Pillsbury Road, Londonderry. If you have any questions please call 781-866-9976.

Parents Support Group

Are you frustrated with your teenager or in need of support regarding your teenager? Does parenting your teenager mean you have new concerns about anger, defiance, motivation and trust? If so, you are not alone. Welcome to the club! Meet up with other parents at our Parents Support Group every Thursday night, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., at The Upper Room, 36 Tsienneto Road, Derry. Meet other parents experiencing the same situations. No pre-registration is required. There is no fee, and all topics can be discussed. Call 603-437-8477 with any questions.

Continuing Education Program

Programs are open to the public at no charge, except as otherwise indicated. Donations to the Etz Hayim Synagogue will allow us to continue to offer these and other programs, and are gratefully accepted. Thurs. Nights, at 7 p.m. Etz Hayim Synagogue, 11/2 Hood Road, Derry. For more information, please contact: Stephen Soreff, MD, at soreffs-15@aol.com or 603 895-6120.

Frost Fest Gears Up for Another Weekend of Wintery Fun

KATIE O'DONNELL
NUTFIELD NEWS

Frost Fest returns for another year of family fun, inviting locals to mingle with their neighbors the weekend of Feb. 9. Annual favorites, like the ice sculptures, snowshoeing, shows and the chili contest are set to return. Those who attended last year can look forward to many of the same events, according to Eric Bodenrader, the director of Parks and Recreation.

"It's fun to be able to provide a fun outdoor winter carnival," said Bodenrader. "It's just a wonderful event."

Families looking for something warm to do on a Friday night can enjoy a showing of the classic "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" at the Adams Memorial Opera House. The movie is sponsored by This Is Derry and is

the inspiration for the Ice Breakers' ice sculptures this year, which will also be on display starting Friday. Ice Breakers will begin carvings at noon, according to Bodenrader, and should finish just in time for the film. The Derry Village Rotary Club will again be hosting a spaghetti supper at the Pinkerton Academy Senior Cafeteria starting at 5 p.m. on Friday night.

Saturday will get a little wild at the Veterans Hall with the return of Wildlife Encounters and their animal show. The group brings in a variety of creatures, like reptiles, birds and mammals and educates children through interactive learning. The show is free to the public. The Derry Public Library is also bringing back its free puppet show to Veterans Hall, which will start at 11 a.m. before Wildlife Encounters. Other

kid friendly events will be over at Midgard Comics in Hood Commons from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Frost Fest is inviting all cooks worth their salt to bring their best pot of chili to the Beaver Lake Improvement Association's chili making contest at Gallien's Town Beach on Sunday from noon to 3 p.m. The association is looking for participants to win one of three prizes, including bragging rights for best chili. Interested chefs can sign up with Diana Tompkins through her email at DianaTompkins@beaverlake.org.

For the last few years, the weather had not cooperated as well as organizers had planned. Last year, the threat of snow caused many of the outdoor activities planned on Sunday at the Hoodcroft Golf Course to be canceled. The year before had mild weather that put the kibosh on any

events on Beaver Lake because of thin ice conditions. Three years ago, a blizzard caused freezing temperatures and record snowfall.

When asked if the weather may be an issue again this year, Bodenrader said, "who knows, we live in New England!"

This year, though, if Mother Nature gives the town a break, attendees can look forward to outdoor activities like sledding at the Alexander-Carr Playground as well as hockey and skating at Gallien's Town Beach during the weekend. Cross-country skiing, snowmobile rides and cookie decorating are all still planned for Sunday at Hoodcroft. The outdoor events will start at noon and the cookie decorating will begin at 1 p.m.

"We keep our fingers crossed that everything goes off without a hitch," said Bodenrader.

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