

Nutfield News

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School District Deliberative Moves Articles to Warrant

ALEX GUITTARR
NUTFIELD NEWS

With two significant warrant articles that will affect the school district going before voters on March 13, residents had one last chance to speak their mind on this upcoming legislation and potentially change it at the School District Deliberative Session that was held in the West Running Brook Middle School gymnasium on February 10.

Amongst the residents in attendance during the meeting were also members of the Derry School Board and various district administration staff members, including Board Chair Dan McKenna and the meeting's moderator Kevin Gordon.

After the likes of Gordon and McKenna expanded upon the district's fiscal and

academic achievements as of late, the bulk of the meeting revolved around giving attendees a refresher on the 2018-2019 budget. Amongst the major changes to the budget were around seven hundred and twenty thousand dollars being cut from health and dental insurance, an extra sixty three thousand dollars going towards transportation, five hundred and twenty three thousand dollars going towards a major overhaul of the district's technology and internet access and three hundred thousand dollars towards budgeted retirement incentives.

Several staffing changes are also a part of the budget, as three and a half special education teacher positions, one half of a guidance counselor position and two in-school suspension assistant

positions being added, with half a position referring to part-time work. Some positions were also cut because of the budget, with three special education assistant positions, three elementary school teacher positions and two middle school English language arts teacher positions being cut.

Overall, the total budget came to roughly eighty six million, two hundred and sixty one thousand dollars, determined to be a .22 percent expenditure increase from last year's budget.

As for article three, it would determine whether or not the School District would approve the cost for the collective bargaining agreement reached between the School Board and the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, which

continued on page 4

Town Council Hears Reports From Four More Committees

ALEX GUITTARR
NUTFIELD NEWS

As a part of the Town Council's ongoing efforts to gain a better understanding of the activities of its various committees and commission, the council heard reports from four more of these groups during the council's February 6 meeting in order to understand what they have accomplished and what they have planned for the future.

The Derry Housing & Redevelopment Authority report came first from the Authority's representative, Robert DiNozzi. In his report, DiNozzi described

the group as an independent corporation with its own board and employees that handles housing and urban development matters in town.

Through funding provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the group handles Section 8 housing vouchers and assists hundreds of residents in their efforts to find affordable housing in apartments, a list which currently sits at two hundred and eighty nine applicants. DiNozzi noted that when deciding who receives help for these matters, the group focuses on elderly veterans, Derry resi-

dents and victims of domestic violence.

Furthermore, DiNozzi noted that the authority has also managed to add seven hundred thousand dollars into the local economy, but is only working with seventy to eighty percent of its recommended budget. However, DiNozzi defended the authority by commenting on how well they are working, despite this short coming.

"I can attest that they're doing a good job at being efficient and effective at running the organization", DiNozzi noted.

Councilor Phyllis Katsakiores did question just

continued on page 4



INDOOR FUN With weather conditions wiping out most of the outdoor activities for the Frost Festival this year, residents headed indoors for many events. On Saturday at Veterans Hall Brenda Guggisberg gives Jake Preroius direction on the giant Twister game set up. See more photos page 8. Photo by Chris Paul

Derry Names New Economic Development Coordinator

ALEX GUITTARR
NUTFIELD NEWS

Over the years, Derry town officials has been addressing the idea of economic development to help grow Derry's businesses and entice more businesses to make their home here.

The idea is also to help with the residential tax burden. But with every staff member busy with their own obligations, the town needs someone with financial expertise to take the reins on these ambitions.

Up until last year, the town had one such person,

with Anne Struthers serving as Derry's Economic Development Coordinator. And, although she left a good mark on the town with her work and the momentum she created for Derry's economy, she was forced to abandon the position on

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Barka Elementary Hosts Read Across America Celebration

ALEX GUITTARR
NUTFIELD NEWS

No matter how old you are, books can have an immense impact on one's life. Whether it is fiction or non-fiction, the adventures

they can take the reader on and the knowledge that they can impart have made books a cornerstone for people practically since the dawn of civilization.

Barka Elementary agrees and, in order to get children

to appreciate just how much reading can bring to their lives, the school will be participating in the annual Read Across America Celebration on March 8 and 9.

The celebration was originally started by the National Education Association (NEA) back in May 1997. Following the logic of using pep rallies and assemblies to get kids excited for football and other events, a small task for the NEA developed Read Across America to get kids excited about reading. Furthermore, in order to celebrate the work of one of the most iconic children's authors in U.S. history, the

event is normally celebrated on March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss.

Although Barka will not be celebrating specifically on Dr. Seuss' birthday, as March 2 is part of a vacation week for the school, staff members will still be diving headfirst into the celebration in the following week.

According to Wendy Mahoney, a Reading Specialist for Barka, the program has always been big with students and teachers alike, with students dressing up as characters from their favorite books and teachers decorating the doors to their classrooms with various references to books of their choice.

"It's a way of honoring reading", Mahoney noted.

But the most prominent element of the celebration is the multitude of special guests that come to the school to read the students. Amongst these guests include school administrators, members of the Derry Police and Fire Departments and more.

However, the biggest guest out of them all would have to be local author Carol Ekster. Having both a Master's Degree in reading and language, as well as thirty five years of experience as a fourth grade teacher, education has always been a big part of her life. But

although she had never had the desire to write a book before, she suddenly developed a passion for it during the summer of 2002. Now having written over sixty children's books, her works not only delve into matters that teach children about language arts and math, but also help them understand real-world matters like keeping your room clean and even more serious issues like divorce.

With Ekster also a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, she will no doubt be a perfect addition to the Read Across America program.

Two Dogs Need Help

The Greater Derry Humane Society is currently engaged in a legal fight to keep two dogs.

Alice and Anzlo have been in our care for the last two years after being seized from an owner in Derry who was subsequently charged with multiple counts of animal cruelty and negligence. The dogs were full of fleas and worms, and had skin problems. Alice had infected ears which had gone untreated for some time. They were being forced to live in filth without adequate food and water. We nursed both dogs back to health and they are currently living happy, safe lives in their loving foster homes. But the court has decided that the dogs should be returned to the owner.

Please help to keep these dogs from going back to the horrible living situation that they were in. See our website <http://derryhumanesociety.com/> to read more and to donate to our legal fund.



Anzlo



Alice

Economic Coordinator

continued from page 1

Dec. 1 of last year because of undisclosed personal reasons. It was a move that town staff noted was not one that she wanted to undertake.

But after only a couple short months, Derry has already found a replacement, as the Town Manager David Caron recently announced that Beverly Donovan will be serving as the town's new Economic Development Coordinator at the Town Council's February 6 meeting.

Picked from four other

candidates, Donovan currently serves as the President of the Chamber of Commerce in Haverhill, Massachusetts, as well as its Director of Economic Development, and holds a Master's Degree in Community Economic Development from Southern New Hampshire University. Although she currently resides in Salem, she has lived in southern New Hampshire all of her life and serves the Derry area as a commercial real estate advisor.

"We look forward to



Beverly Donovan

Beverly applying her skills and experiences to advance Derry's Economic Development Strategic Plan", Caron commented. "Formerly involved in both commercial real estate and with the Greater Derry-Londonderry

Chamber, Beverly is anxious to reconnect with the local business community and state development officials to help grow Derry's economy."

The council welcomed Donovan with open arms, who in turn thanked the council for the opportunity and felt ready to get to work and research Derry's past development matters in order to prepare for the future.

"I think Derry has a lot of potential. I have seen a lot of great things happening over the years," Donovan noted.

Donovan will start her new role in Derry on Feb. 20.

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Town Council Reminds Residents To Stay Involved With Town Government

ALEX GUITTARR
NUTFIELD NEWS

Voting time for the town of Derry is inching closer and closer, and as it does, the Town Council took some time out of its February 6 meeting to remind residents not only of the significance of one upcoming warrant article, but also about just how important their participation in local government is.

As many residents are already aware, the council has approved a non-binding warrant article for the March 13 elections that, if approved by voters, would alter Derry from a town into a city, not to mention give them control over the school board as a result. This was done in response to a recent tax hike that the town faced due to the

school budget and the ensuing backlash from residents over it.

However, in order to make sure residents fully understand the gravity of this article, Town Manager David Caron is in the process of putting together a video that would expand upon the implications of this article and what kind of effects it would have. He expects the video to be available on the town website within a couple of weeks.

Council member Brian Chirichello chimed in to remind residents that they realize some feel that this is a sort of power grab by the council and that what they are doing is simply a matter of gauging the public on how they feel about the situation.

But on the topic of public opinion, the council also

insisted that any residents who want a say in town government would be wise to attend the Derry School Board Deliberative Session on February 10, giving them a chance to affect public policy as they see fit. Council member Richard Tripp, in particular, reminded residents that they can also visit the Derry Public Library for records on both past and the proposed budgets for reference.

Council member Neil Wetherbee took it a step further by warning people about what not participating in town government can lead to. Highlighting the fact that less than two hundred people have attended each session in the past decade, Wetherbee notes that the school budget is far too large for residents to ignore, especially consider-

ing that one session with only eighty five attendees added eight hundred and fifty thousand dollars to the budget only five years ago.

“Get yourself educated. Get yourself informed. And make sure you get out there and vote”, Wetherbee stated.

Council member James Morgan, on the other hand, felt that affect the school

board’s budget would not solve anything. Although he did commend the district employees for their efforts to cut back on the budget, Morgan not only feels that turning the town into a city would be a deterrent to economic development, but that it is the district’s performance that is causing an issue.

With Derry’s school’s

ranking in the bottom third of districts in the state, Morgan feels that the best way to encourage more business opportunities for these schools and ease the burden for the district, is for the curriculum to improve drastically.

“The curriculum isn’t working because the scores don’t reflect it”, Morgan noted.

Councilors To Consider Application For Outdoor Food & Drink Service Permit

HUNTER MCGEE
NUTFIELD NEWS

Councilors were scheduled at press time to consider granting a request from the Cask and Vine for a permit for outdoor food and drink service at their Tuesday, Feb. 13 meeting.

The downtown business applied for the permit for food and drink service at 1.5 East Broadway, according to a resolution. The request has been reviewed and recommended by the Technical Review Committee.

Local ordinance allows

the issuance of Special Permits to allow for seating and other activities on sidewalks in the traditional business overlay district, according to the resolution.

If the request is granted, the special permit would be for the period of April 1 to Oct. 31 of this year, according to the resolution.

In other items on the agenda, councilors were scheduled to accept a 2018 Wellness Grant offered by Health Trust and to approve the expenditure of the \$600 grant on employee wellness programs, according to a

report prepared by Elizabeth Robidoux, planning and economic development assistant and wellness coordinator.

Health Trust awards a Coordinator Grant each year for \$500 to the Derry that is used for programs that raise awareness of physical activity, along with social, physical and mental health of employees and their families, Robidoux said. In addition, this year the town has received \$100 incentive from Health Trust for passing its Health Assessment Goal, she said.

Welfare Check Leads to Finding of Murder Suicide

According to a information released by investigators, a welfare check led to the discovery of two bodies in a Kendall Pond Road mobile home shortly after noon on Monday, Feb. 12.

Preston Connor Edmunds, 6, and his father Matthew Edmunds, 39, were found in a bedroom of Unit 35 at the mobile home community at 30 Kendall Pond Road.

They were the only residents of the home.

It was disclosed that on Tuesday, Feb. 13, New Hampshire Chief Medical Examiner Jennie V. Duval was to conduct autopsies on the two bodies to determine the deaths and found both died from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Police said that upon entering the home a sign



The home on Kendall Pond Road where two bodies mobile home shortly after noon on Monday, Feb. 12.

was found telling them about the location of the bodies as well as the high levels of carbon monoxide.

Attorney General Gordon J. MacDonald and Derry Police Chief Edward Garone released a statement that “there is no known risk of harm to the general pub-

lic.” And that no further information is expected until the autopsies are completed.

Also disclosed in the release, was that in 2009 Matthew Edmunds lost a son, also six years old, in a drowning accident in Derry.

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Editorial

Meager Masses

We weren't surprised by yet another poor turnout at Deliberative Sessions in the area. A place where you can, lower, zero out, or increase budgets and warrant articles. High numbers and Deliberative Sessions definitely do not go hand in hand; in spite of taxes and an explanation or question on warrant articles can take place and be tweaked before going on the ballot.

Many towns have adopted the SB2 Deliberative Session it hopes of attracting more voters, and have all articles voted on by ballot. This got rid of the traditional New England town meeting, and switch to SB2.

Even though more people vote, compared to the number of registered voters, voter turnout is still very low.

Example: last year about 60 people turned out for Hampstead's school district deliberative it was about the same in Sandown and Chester. To give that some context, Hampstead has about 7,000 registered voters, Chester, with about 6,000 voters Sandown 4,500, and in much larger towns like Derry with about 22,000 and Londonderry with about 19,000. Only 2,000 to 4,000 people show up to vote for town elections. We'll spare you the pitiful percentages.

In some cases, surprisingly enough, they represent a better turnout than usual. Do these figures mean that all the other voters agreed with the numerous articles on the town and school warrants and are

ready for the voting booth March 6, highly unlikely. Ask the question are the people who represent you doing an outstanding job or just getting it done be honest.

Regardless of what the majority of voters were doing that was more important than attending Deliberative Session, the next chance to participate in democracy is the March 13 election. You've got some time to study the candidates read about them in our pages and boost your knowledge of the issues that will appear on the warrant. We encourage you to study the numbers, check out candidate forums, ask questions, and verify what proponents and opponents of a particular warrant article are telling you.

This year's election has attracted, in most cases, a choice among candidates. Make your vote an informed one. If people have made the effort to offer their time for public service, we owe them, at the very least, enough interest to pay attention to their words and if their words are platitudes, agendas and generalities, to demand answers to the tough questions.

Local politics matters and is bipartisan. We have far more of a say in town and school elections than in any other election. Send in letters letting other know how you feel and who you support. So maybe you missed your chance to participate at Deliberative Session. For your own good and the good of the community, please get out and vote on March 13.

Town Committees

continued from page 1

what could be done to speed up the housing process for those on the waiting list, but DiNozzi admitted that he was unaware and suggested speaking with the Executive Director, Robert Fleig, for clearer answers.

The next report came from Karen-Blandford Anderson to expand upon the activities of the town's Heritage Commission. After elaborating upon the purpose of the commission, which was to preserve the historical elements of history, also including reviews of historically significant buildings, Anderson explained their two most recent undertakings: their updates to the town history museum and its website, as well as their preparations for the upcoming Nutfield 300th Anniversary next year.

Following that was the

report for the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) from its Chair, Paul Needham. In his report, Needham established the purpose of the EDAC, that being to strengthen Derry economic prospects through a variety of means, before thanking both town staff and Anne Struthers, Derry's former Economic Development Coordinator, for their hard work and support.

Amongst the EDAC various accomplishments as of late include the water and sewer extension on Route 28, which in turn will also lead to development of housing in the surrounding area, the Downtown facade improvement program and the success of Downtown businesses and the local Farmer's Market. Needham also hopes to take advantage of Derry's historical significance to attract more visitors.

And speaking of visitors, Needham noted that a couple of friends of his recently visited Derry and, upon seeing the other attractions that the Downtown area offers, mentioned that they would have to come back very soon to see them all.

"That wasn't what people were saying about Derry a few short years ago", Needham stated.

Finally, the Planning Board report was delivered by its Vice Chair, John O'Connor. In their efforts to both approve construction site plans and smooth out the standards and rules that come with these approvals, O'Connor noted that they approved close to twenty six thousand square feet of new commercial space last year, approved the creation of fourteen new single family house lots and caused a net gain of one million, one hundred thousand dollars for Derry because of these approvals.

School Deliberative

continued from page 1

recently established a chapter in Derry labeled Local 1445, that would increase salaries and benefits for the district's food service employees. The official cost for these increases would run the district around eighteen thousand, six hundred dollars for the next two school years.

When it came time to open the floor for discussion from the public, Town Councilor Richard Tripp came forward to ask not only how much the budget increased in dollar value, which was roughly two hundred thousand dollars, but

why the district's budgeted revenues went down from three million, six hundred thousand dollars to two million, four hundred thousand dollars. Members of the board and district explained that this was due to a combination of the tightening of the district's budget and expansion of retirement expenditures.

Resident Jill Prakopa also came to the mic to speak, but in a more positive sense. Prakopa simply wished to thank district staff for their efforts to support special education, as it makes life much easier for her having two children with special needs.

"My kids are fully included in the general education classroom", Prakopa noted.

However, aside from those two, no other attendees decided to speak up and after only forty five minutes, both articles were unanimously approved in their original forms for the March ballot by the voters.

McKenna, who mentioned that he was highly impressed by the district's Fiscal Advisory Committee for putting together the budget, was amazed by how smoothly the meeting went.

"I've never seen unanimous support for a budget before", McKenna stated.

Nutfield News

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Nutfield Publishing, LLC
2 Litchfield Rd., Londonderry, NH 03053
tel: 603-537-2760 • fax: 603-537-2765
send e-mails to: nutfieldnews@nutpub.net
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Kids Coop Theatre Group Works on the Musical Madagascar



Kids Coop Theatre is currently rehearsing for *Madagascar, A Musical Adventure, Jr.* The dance musical take a journey out of the zoo and onto the stage with the crack-a-lacking' friends from the blockbuster DreamWorks film. Join Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, Gloria the hip hip Hippo and, of course, those hilarious, plotting penguins as they bound onto your stage in the musical adventure of a lifetime. The Directors is Ruthie Vinson with Director Mentor, Maureen Mansfield, Musical Director is Heidi Krantz and Music Director Mentor Marilyn Olbricht. the production's Choreographer is Paige Athanasiou. Derry cast members include Benjamin Bertini as Private, Ryan Carrigan as Marty, Kaylee Gifford as Gloria, Kalisan Marzolf as Rico, Byrn Steinmetz as Alex, Rowan Gifford, Thomas Hull, Audrey Labbe, Megan Lautieri, Savannah Marisseau, Skylar Marzolf, Kristin Minzner, Braeden Tremain, and Kira Withrow. Showtimes start March 9 at 7 p.m. and continue to March 10 at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Historic Derry Opera House.

Photos by Chris Paul

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Go Green Looking to Put Together Major Changes For Its Goals and Structure

ALEX GUITTARR
NUTFIELD NEWS

Although Derry strives to remain environmentally friendly thanks to the work of a variety of eco-friendly committees, one such committee may soon be looking into a major overhaul of its structure.

Derry's Go Green Committee, which is tasked with educating residents on the beauty and value of natural resources, encouraging exploration of the outdoors and engaging people in liv-

ing greener, serves as an off-shoot of the town's Conservation Commission. The committee accomplishes its goals through a variety of outdoor events, including town cleanups and snowshoe tours.

However, in recent months, several members, including Chairperson Liz Carver, have begun to question their role in the committee and how much longer they wish to pursue these activities.

"I would like to reassess what my purpose is to Go

Green," Carver noted.

As a result, members were hoping to restructure how the committee and its meetings work, as confusion over the roles each individual plays, a struggle to balance the committee's activities with their day jobs and a rather small, semi-regular number of staff members has made it harder for members like Carver to stay enthusiastic about working with the committee.

Members are currently unsure as to what this restructuring will involve,

but some ideas already include limiting their cleanup projects from twice a year to only being done once annually, as well as adopting a more casual meeting environment in order to allow members to define what specifically they will do for both the committee and the community.

It was also suggested that the committee's website, go-green-derry.org, be shut down for the time being due to a lack of people visiting the page, with members not wanting to rack up

charges for a website that no one uses. Furthermore, there were also talks of essentially cutting off their sponsorship from the town government and become a more inclusive group, although other members felt that they should remain with the town and enlist town staff to assist with their restructuring efforts.

But regardless of how they achieve this result, Carver and other members agreed that as long as they remain a government group, they need to stop being so

inclusive and let their efforts be more widely known, also leading to the suggestion of simply establishing a page for the committee on the town website.

"It's not professional enough", Carver stated.

Although the committee can expect to see some major changes in the future, it appears that it will be business as usual for the time being, as members will be continuing to prepare for their usual events while they figure out the restructuring process.

Hockey Tournament Honors Daughter's Memory With Scholarship

ALEX GUITTARR
NUTFIELD NEWS

Tragedies can drive us to the darkest of places, forcing us to face down things that people simply were not meant to deal with. But in the face of these horrors, many find that they gain the drive to make the world a better place.

Dan and Kim Smith sought out to do just that after the death of their daughter Samantha over a decade ago, leading to the

creation of both the Samantha C. Smith Foundation and, far more recently, the eleventh annual Roy Cup Hockey Tournament held in Londonderry from Feb. 9 - 11.

Originally held in Auburn for its first three years, the tournaments were eventually moved to Londonderry after the Smith's reached out to a friend of theirs, Dan Roy, who happened to have a fully functional hockey rink on his property, thus leading to the naming of the tournament

after him.

Typically taking place over the course of three days, the tournament involves a maximum of twelve teams made up of individuals over forty years old. But while the competition is stiff, the real purpose of the event is aiding the Smith family's cause and just having a good time with friends and families, especially between the cookout and raffles being held outside of the hockey rink. Since it started, the event has grown to host



Teams square off in the rink constructed on Dan Roy's property to raise money in the name of Samantha Smith.

around six hundred people across the three days.

"They know what it goes towards. We can't do it without them", Kim noted.

And the bigger the event grows, the more support the Samantha C. Smith Foundation gains. Back when Samantha passed away, things were rather hard for Dan and Kim, but Samantha had also grown up enough to develop a love of education. Thus, in an

effort to keep Samantha's spirit alive, the foundation focuses around granting both educational and hockey scholarship.

For the education scholarships, applicants must have at least a 3.0 GPA upon graduating from high school and write an essay based upon a question provided by the foundation. First place can win a five thousand dollar scholarship, while second place wins two thousand dollars.

As for the hockey scholarships, applicants must be between the ages of eight and fourteen, have an average grade level of no less than a C, actively participate in any hockey league within the last two years and also answer an essay based upon a question provided by the foundation. Four scholarships worth seven hundred and fifty dollars are handed out annually.

For more information, visit scsfund.org.

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Pinkerton Chefs Raise Money After Local Restaurant Owner's Passing

ALEX GUITTARR
NUTFIELD NEWS

Pinkerton Academy's culinary program has already gained quite a reputation for crafting some delectable meals and making top-quality chefs out of its students. But the program has also tried to maintain a strong relationship with local chefs and restaurants, leading its staff and students to use these skills to do some good in their community for a school event.

This is because the culinary program recently held an Italian themed buffet in the Astro Café on Feb. 9 to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

According to Keith Desjardin, a teacher for the school's culinary program, the buffet was done to honor Lori Sutera, one of the owner's of Sabatino's North Italian Restaurant, who recently passed away

early this month after battling cancer. Desjardin, who worked closely with Sutera earlier in his career while at the Brookstone Grill, was contacted by the restaurant about Sutera passing away. Realizing that Sutera had always had a desire to help the less-fortunate, Desjardin decided to show his respects one last time by supporting an organization that she had also championed.

"We do try to have a strong relationship with local restaurants", Desjardin noted.

Started back in 1980, Make-A Wish Foundation was formed when U.S. Customs Officer Tommy Austin and other officers at the Arizona Department of Public Safety helped seven-year-old leukemia patient James Greicius live out his dream of becoming a police officer, giving him a day perform various duties in his

own police uniform and be sworn in as the first honorary Public Safety patrolman in the history of Arizona. After his death, the organization was officially started and has granted over two hundred and eighty five thousand wishes to children across the country since its inception.

Although the buffet was originally supposed to be held on Feb. 7, inclement weather held the event off until Feb. 9. Regardless, the event was intended to be less of a restaurant-themed event and more of a quiet, respectful time where those coming to grab some of the Italian cuisine would get them in a microwaveable container to either eat in the café or take home for the weekend.

Amongst the foods prepared for the day were broccoli and parmesan arancini over pomodoro sauce, minestrone soup,



Students from Pinkerton Academy's culinary program work to prepare the different items for the Italian Cuisine buffet.

antipasto salad, cheese ravioli with pomodoro sauce, chicken marsala with long-grain rice, mini-cannolis and traditional Tiramisu,

amongst other delicious foods.

Desjardin spoke very highly of Sutera and her work, describing her as a

text-book Italian chef with tons of energy, a big smile and a passion for pouring her heart and soul into her restaurant.

Take Apart and Explore Mechanics of Technology at Derry Library

ALEX GUITTARR
NUTFIELD NEWS

Although we tend to take so many of them for granted, the pieces of technology we use day and night can be mind-bogglingly complicated and if we were to see the insides of our televisions, computers, cars and so on, we would probably have a greater appreciation for what it takes to put these items together.

So, for those residents

who would like to see just what it takes to make their appliances and tech tick, the Derry Public Library is offering what they describe as a Take Apart program.

According to Liz Ryan, one of the libraries staff members, the program is an ongoing effort to impart lessons involving Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to the community, giving them a better idea of how much work it takes to sim-

ply start a computer or turn on a clothes iron.

"People are gonna learn to take stuff apart", Ryan noted.

At the program, participants will be provided with tools and safety glasses to take apart a variety of appliances donated by the library, including printers, microwaves and an old laptop owned by Ryan, all

while library staff help to expand upon the inner workings of these items and what they do to achieve their final intended result. Helping these matters is the fact that Ryan already has a decent idea of how laptops work, as she took a tech services course while in college.

But what is really key to the Take Apart program is

that is intended for all ages. Ryan was adamant in noting that although this environment is great as a family affair, information on this level is perfect for anyone young or old to keep in the back of their mind, whether

it be because they want to pursue a technology-based career or were simply curious.

The program will be starting on Feb. 24 at 2 p.m. For more information, visit derrypl.org.

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Derry Celebrates Frostfest Dispite Unfavorable Weather Conditions



Although rain dampened many of the outdoor activities of the annual Frost Festival many of the indoor event still took place. On Friday, a spaghetti supper hosted by the Derry Village Rotary Club took place at Pinkerton Academy. Also Friday, Ice Breakers again created ice sculptures at the Adams Memorial Opera House to coincide with the Movie Night film, Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory. On Saturday, at Veterans Hall, a puppet show was featured by the Derry Public Library as well as Wildlife Encounters showing a

variety of exotic animals, also featured was a giant Twister Game run by Brenda Guggisberg of the Upper Room. At Midguard Comics children played games, had a coloring contest, saw a balloon artist, and had face painting. And on Sunday at Alexander Carr Park, there was a Bonfire by the fire department as well as face painting, ballon hats made by “Joe the Ballon Guy,” and cookie decorating. At Beaver Lake, the Beaver Lake Improvement Association held its Chili Contest.

Photos by Chris Paul



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DERRY SPORTS

Astro Gymnasts Maintain Hold on State Championship Crown

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

There have now been nine New Hampshire high school state championship gymnastics meets since 2010, and the Pinkerton Academy Lady Astros have won seven of them.

The Lady Astros bagged the 15th state title in their program's history, their seventh in the last nine years, and their second one in a row in the University of New Hampshire's Lundholm Gymnasium in Durham Saturday, Feb. 10.

PA coach Chelsie Burland, who stepped into the 2017-18 season with less roster depth than usual after graduating seven seniors from the 2016-17 championship crew, was initially concerned about what her current Pinkerton squad's fortunes might be this winter. But hard work and lots and lots of talent on the 11-member squad kept the Lady Astros firmly atop the state gymnastics mountain for yet another season.

The local ladies tallied a big team score of 141.925 in remaining the state champs, and that winning tally was comfortably higher than the one posted by the runner-up squad from Londonderry High, which battled some physical adversity in the form of illness and an injury



The members of the Pinkerton girls' gymnastics squad found plenty of reasons to be excited after repeating as Division I state champs. Photos by Chris Paul

in bagging a score of 136.7. Bedford placed third with a 135.125. The LHS Lady Lancers, who won the 2015-16 title by percentage points over Pinkerton, was also the second place team last year.

The 2017-18 academy contingent had added an important individual in the person of assistant coach Lindsay Moran, who established the PA gymnastics program years ago and led it to a handful of state titles as its head coach. And present leader Burland was more than a little pleased to have Moran along for the ride.

"Every year's a new journey and a new story, and every team adds to the legacy that Lindsay started. And every year is special," said Burland.

For her part, assistant coach Moran was immensely proud to be part of another trophy-hoisting Pinkerton crew.

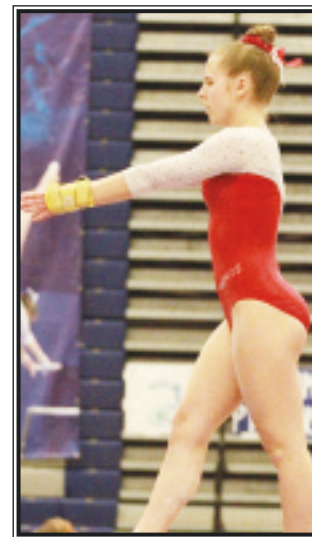
"Everybody had a part, and they played it," she said.

The Astros will now enjoy the honor of hosting the 2017-18 New England Championships in their own Hackler Gymnasium on March 10.

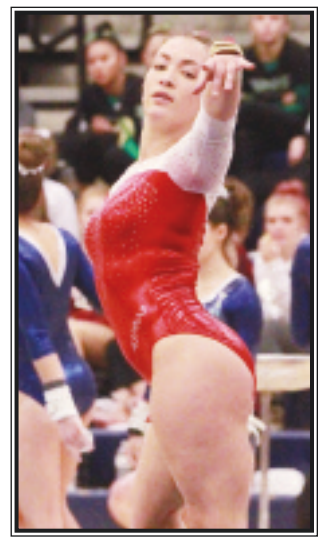
Pinkerton - which will not lose a single gymnast to graduation this year - received top scoring performances from a number of sources.

Veteran standout Ashlee Loeffler was the individual state champion on the balance beam (score of 9.425), third on vault (9.25), third in the all-around (35.95), and

fifth on the uneven bars (8.2). Audrey Hill tied for second on the balance beam (9.35) and placed second in the floor exercise (9.35), and Sophia Viger contributed a third place (tied) on floor



Ashlee Loeffler won the individual state title for PA on the balance beam.



Audrey Hill placed second in the floor exercise for her title-winning PA team.

(9.275), a fourth (tied) on vault (9.125), and a fifth in the all-around (35.45).

Additionally, Ashley McKinnon was good for a fifth on beam (9.175), and Zoe Demers tied for sixth

place on floor (9.175).

The rest of the title-winning PA team included Chloe Abreu, Emily Connors, Zoe Dinsmore, Allison French, Lizzie Morin, and Haley Rustad.

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Pinkerton Girls' Basketball Crew Keeps Piling Up Wins

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

Stepping into a game with the Pinkerton Academy girls' basketball squad right now is like walking in front of a steamroller. It's best to know that you the opponent are likely to get flattened.

The Lady Astros bagged their ninth, tenth, and eleventh consecutive Division I wins last week in

advancing their league record to 13-1.

The academy crew had very little trouble with the visiting Nashua North Lady Titans in Derry last Tuesday night, Feb. 6, trouncing that opponent by a 61-25 count after sprinting out to a rather stunning, 21-0 lead in the first period.

The locals received points from a dozen players, with Brooke Kane leading

the way with 13 and Alyssa DiMauro and Allison Ingalls each contributing eight.

On the heels of that lopsided success, the academy squad faced a rematch with a youthful Londonderry High girls' hoop crew which had won three consecutive games since suffering a 64-40 defeat at the hands of the Lady Astros in Ball Family Trophy play at LHS back on Jan. 26.

Pinkerton coach Lani Buskey was left singing the praises of both her own team and the visiting Lancers following their Friday night, Feb. 9 battle which was won by the home-standing PA crew by a somewhat misleading 52-36 tally.

The Astros tore their way out to a 17-4 lead in the first quarter, but they then saw pesky Londonderry win both the second and third periods in keeping the game close.

The PA lead sat at 11 points at 32-21 at halftime, and the hosts were only up by five at 35-30 after playing nearly the entire third quarter without foul-addled standout Kane, who had scored a dozen points in the first half.

Kane drew her third foul just seconds into the third period but returned with about three minutes to go - with her Lady Astros having missed seven consecutive shots from the floor - but only remained in the game for a few more seconds before drawing her fourth foul and having to come

back out.

The problem for Londonderry - which came into the contest hoping to even its D-I record at 7-7 - was that while Kane sat on the bench and her teammates scuffled mightily with their offense - the Lady Lancers couldn't hit their own shots.

Pinkerton only hit one of its 11 shots from the floor during the third quarter, but Londonderry only sank three of its 10 shots - and none of its final six tries - in remaining an arm's length from its host.

Londonderry trimmed its deficit down to just four points at 36-32 on a Courtney Shay free throw at the start of the fourth period, but it would get no closer as the Lady Astros ended a 1-for-13 shooting skid with a Cydney Lessard three-pointer. And the PA lead would never fall below five points again.

Kane would return to the game down the stretch and net seven big points which would help put the final touches on the win.

The Lady Lancers would wind up hitting just one of the nine shots they took from the floor in the fourth quarter, and they ended up falling by 16 points.

However, PA coach Buskey stated clearly that anybody who looks at the 52-36 final score and thinks the Lady Astros overpowered yet another opponent will be quite wrong.

"That's the most improv-



Lady Astro Alicia D'Onofrio attempts a lefty shot with a Londonderry defender right in her face during Pinkerton's recent win.
Photo by Chris Paul

Athletes of the Week

Week of Feb. 5



**Ashlee Loeffler, Junior,
Girls' Gymnastics**

This talented and versatile 11th grader played a key role in helping her Astros win the state championship again. She was the state champ on beam and also took third in the all-around and fifth on bars.



**Sean Healey, Junior,
Unified Basketball**

This hard-working athlete scored 20 points in his team's last game as well as pulling down multiple rebounds. He is the most unselfish player on the Astro team and he has been a leader all year long.

Athletes are chosen by Pinkerton Academy Athletic Office

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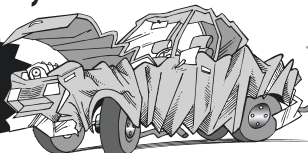
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Pinkerton Boys' Basketball Troop Tripped Up By Titans

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

The Pinkerton Academy boys' basketball squad's Jan. 26 road victory over Londonderry in Ball Family Trophy play at LHS was impressive and emotional, and it brought with it the possibility that the win could be a turning

point for coach Peter Rosinski's team in their 2017-18 campaign.

That, however, has not proven to be the case in the subsequent four contests the Astros have played since that big success.

The academy hoopsters saw their Division I record slide to 2-10 with a 75-59

loss to a struggling Nashua North contingent in the Gate City on the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 6.

The host Titans stepped into that contest having lost four straight games and holding a 1-8 record. In winning, the Nashuans handed scuffling Pinkerton its fourth consecutive defeat.

The Titans raced out to a 17-8 lead in the first quarter, but the Astros showed plenty of fight in winning both the second and third quarters. They trailed 32-26 at halftime and by a mere two points at 49-47 rolling into the final stanza.

However, the hosts outscored the locals by a

big, 26-12 tally in the final quarter to win going away.

Pinkerton received double-digit points from Sam Goy (16), Ben Lindsey (15), and Andrew Lufkin (13) and got scoring from nine different sources on another losing night.

The academy rolled into this week looking for

wins when they made the long bus ride out to Rochester to take on a Spaulding High Red Raiders' crew which had won its last five games. That contest occurred after Nutfield News press time. The locals will play host to Bedford High's Bulldogs in Derry this Friday night Feb. 16.

Astro Boy Swimmers Fourth, Girls Fifth at D-I State Meet

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

When all of the swimming had been done at the

Division I championships at the University of New Hampshire in Durham last Saturday, Feb. 10, Pinkerton coach Ed Faszewski

and his charges had many reasons to feel good about the work they'd put forth both that day and throughout the just-completed

2017-18 season.

The longtime PA coach saw his Astro males finish a fine fourth out of 15 teams and his Lady Astros snag a strong fifth place out of 15 competing contingents.

"I was extremely happy with the way the kids swam this weekend," said Faszewski. "It has been our goal all along to be at our best at states, and this was definitely evident with the number of best times we had at the meet. I told the athletes on Friday that our coaching was done, and they had to believe in themselves to make the best of the meet, and they certainly did."

Pinkerton senior Zoe Freedman made the biggest news of any of the academy's individuals, winning a solo state championship in the girls' 100-yard freestyle, helping out with a third place in the 400 freestyle relay, and bagging a fourth on her own in the 100-yard backstroke.

Freedman became a state title winner in that 100 by posting a time of 56.21 seconds. She teamed up with Olivia Neville, Amanda Roberge, and Maya Hedstrom on the third in the 400 free relay (3 minutes, 54.11 seconds), and swam for a time of 1:05.58 in bagging her

fourth in the 100 back.

Hedstrom contributed fifth place finishes in both the 100 free and the 50 free for her Lady Astros.

In the boys' meet, the Astro guys' top finish was a fifth in the 200 medley relay thanks to the performances of Christian Nelson, Will Poole, Nathan Landry, and Davin Curry.

Sixth places were registered by Gordon Suwirjo in the 200 individual medley and the 100-yard butterfly, Chris Ploss in the 100-yard breaststroke, and the 400 free relay quartet of Nelson, Ryan Golabiewski, Jackson Neeb, and Suwirjo.

Ski Squads Take Third Places in Last Regular Season Meets

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

Pinkerton Academy's girls' and boys' ski squads closed out their 2017-18 regular seasons in solid fashion by both finishing third out of large fields of teams at Crotched Mountain in Brentwood last Friday, Feb. 9.

The two-time defending Division I champion Lady Astros tallied a total of 362 points to finish behind Hollis-Brookline (381) and Keene (370) but ahead of Goffstown (344), Bishop Guertin (327), Manchester Memorial (321), Manchester Central (240), and Merrimack (77).

The Astro males were one of nine contingents in their meet, and they tallied 352 points to finish behind only BG (378 points) and Goffstown (357) but ahead of Hollis-Brookline (348),

Keene (336), Central (321), Merrimack (230), Wilton (98), and Memorial (74).

The Lady Astros had co-captain Hannah Peterson finish second overall out of some 56 racers. Emily Gardner placed second for the team and ninth overall, Katelyn Bennett returned to action after a bout with the flu and placed 15th overall, and co-captain Caroline Mills excelled in her final regular season race by finishing fourth for PA and 21st overall.

Additionally, Kathryn Leighton snared 22nd place, Caryl Huebner placed 39th, Elizabeth Veale claimed 40th, Miranda Eckerman finished 41st, and Daneille St. Peter took 45th.

Among the individual males, Pinkerton had Owen Sezgin finish fourth overall out of a field of 65 racers, Kenneth McCarthy get

10th, co-captain Eric Ihloff finish 21st overall, and Camden Caswell wind up 24th.

Beyond that quartet, PA had Zach Khan place 26th overall, Ethan Hatch get 31st, co-captain Peter Tinker close out his high school regular season racing career by bagging 37th, and James Smith finish 57th.

The academy teams then drove into this week with both looking at state championship meets, with the girls on Gunstock Mountain in Gilford on Monday, Feb. 12, and the boys there the next day.

Alas, the Lady Astros' reign as Division I champions came to an end on Monday in Gilford as they had to be satisfied with the runner-up plaque instead thanks to their second place performance out of some 18 contingents.

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PA Hockey Crew Ends a Short Losing Skid With Shutout Success

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

Thanks to the cancellation of a game last week due to snow, the Pinkerton Academy ice hockey squad had a full six days to stew over its first two Division I losses of the 2017-18 season. And the Astros made sure their two-game skid wouldn't advance.

Second-year coach Sam Littlefield's Astros lost consecutive decisions to Hanover and Trinity before losing their road game with Bishop Brady of Concord to

snow last week. Those outcomes made the locals 10-2 in the tough division.

But Littlefield's legion moved to 11-2 with a 6-0 pummeling of the visiting Salem High Blue Devils at The Ice Den in Hooksett last Saturday, Feb. 10, with Cody Sullivan, Ty Riviere, and Colin Leighton each tallying multiple points and goalie Dakota Robinson making 18 saves.

Salem goalie Brady Roux was up to the vast majority of his task against PA, and he finished up with some 37 saves. But the

Astros got six blasts past him, with Sullivan scoring twice and Pat Hare, Gennaro Marra, Riviere, and Jon Last each scoring once. Sullivan and Riviere each dealt out one assist, and Leighton dished out two.

The Astros glided into this week looking at a road game - just down the road at the Tri-Town Arena in Hooksett - on Tuesday the 13th followed by a home game against the tough Concord Crimson Tide the next day. Both games occurred after Nutfield News press time.



Senior Tyler Whiting and the PA hockey team blanked Salem recently to end a short losing streak.
Photo by Chris Pantazis.

Astro Bowlers Finish Strong With Wild End to Regular Season

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

There was all kinds of excitement generated by the Pinkerton Academy varsity bowling squad's final regular season match at the Dover Bowl

Saturday, Feb. 10.

The Astros finished a strong second out of five teams to bag eight points and head into this coming Saturday's state team championships at Merrimack Ten Pin with a big head of steam. And it

was anything but "just another day on the lanes" for coach Janet Boyden and her crew.

The Astros took on a tough field of teams including host Red Raiders of Spaulding, the Sanborn Indians, the Winnacunnet

Warriors from Hampton, and the Coe-Brown Bears.

After scoring a two-game standard ten-pin total of 1,453 the Astros were the third seed for Baker play behind number one Spaulding and second-ranked Sanborn but ahead of number four Winnacunnet and fifth-place Coe-Brown.

The locals rolled a first standard game of 669 followed by a decent 784. Dan Kirichok scored a 148 and a 160, Bryant Nourse rolled a 141 and a nice 189, Elijah Johnson contributed a 97 and a 127, Sean Forkey was good for a 124 and a 115, and co-captain Keenan Nash notched a 159 and a 183.

In Baker competition, the Astros faced Sanborn

and played their second most exciting match since February of 2011.

The locals and Sanborn tied at 146-146 in the first game and had to bowl a ninth and 10th frame roll-off. After that, it was still tied, forcing another roll-off. Pinkerton eventually took the game with 66 pins to Sanborn's 49. But Sanborn came back and took the second game 195-140 before the Astros won the third game 151-125 to vanquish that opponent.

The excitement continued when the Astros met Spaulding in round two, and those squads' first game wound up tied at 168-168.

Another roll-off was required, with Spaulding downing 39 pins to

Pinkerton's 18. Round two then went to Spaulding with a second game win of 159-140.

"We took eight points for the day, dedicating the match to co-captain Lauren Sylvain," said coach Boyden.

In junior varsity play, the JV Astros competed with only four team members and took the second seed with a standard ten-pin total of 1,013. The locals received strong performances from Jarod Wong, Jason Barton, Meghan Slater, and Zac Emery.

In Baker play, the locals were bested by Sanborn in finishing in third place overall.

Coach Boyden and her determined bunch will now see what can be accomplished in the state meet on the lanes at Merrimack Ten Pin this weekend.

Astro Wrestlers Have Last Meet of Season Cancelled

CHRIS PANTAZIS
NUTFIELD NEWS

The Pinkerton Academy wrestling squad was slated to have its final 2017-18 regular season duel meet at

Nashua High School North last Wednesday, Feb. 7, but both the Astros and the North Titans lost that event to Old Man Winter and the heavy snowstorm he threw at the Granite State.

That event was cancelled and not re-scheduled, so Pinkerton's next competitive action will take place in the Londonderry High School gymnasium this coming Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Division I Championships.

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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.

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 at St. Luke's, Derry, on Feb. 17, from 5 - 6:30 p.m.; Dinner at Etz Hayim Synagogue Derry, on Feb. 18, from 5 - 6:15 p.m.; Dinner at First Parish, Derry, on Feb. 23, from 5 - 6:30 p.m.; Breakfast at Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, on Feb. 25, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Lunch at St. Jude's Church, on Feb. 25, from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.; For more information, please visit: reemealsinderry.blogspot.com

Elijah's Table

Elijah's Table, a joint project of Etz Hayim Synagogue

and the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. Will be serving a free community dinner on Feb. 18. Serving time is at 5 - 6:15 p.m., and will be held at the Etz Hayim Synagogue at 1-1/2 Hood Road in 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 freemealsinderry.blogspot.com

Taylor Library 140 Birthday

The Taylor Library will celebrate its 140 birthday with an Open House from Feb. 20 - 23 during regular library hours. We invite you to stop by the library for refreshments and fun. For more information call the library at 432-7186.

T-Ball Registration

Derry Recreation Depart-

ment will accept Spring T-Ball registrations beginning now and ending Friday, March 23, or when the divisions are full for the program. Any child 4 - 7 years of age is eligible to participate in the T-Ball program and will be placed in the appropriate division based on the participant's age as of May 1, 2018. Registrations will be accepted at the Recreation Office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. in person or by mail. Parents with children qualifying for the Majors division can also register online. Registering by mail or in person is recommended. Other restrictions may apply to non-residents. For more information on how to register please contact the Recreation office at (603) 432-6136 or visit our website www.derrynh.org/parks-recreation

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 woman's 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.

Greater Manchester Lyme Disease Support Group

Hosted by David Hunter, the group meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Bedford Presbyterian Church 4 Church Road Bedford. For more information call 660-3425 or email dhunter31@gmail.com

Pinkerton Student Receives Air Force Junior ROTC Flight Academy Scholarship

Amber Ginnetty, a senior Air Force Junior ROTC (AF JROTC) cadet at Pinkerton Academy, has received a scholarship to attend one of six partnering universities participating in a private pilot license training program over the summer of 2018.

Ginnetty is one of 120 AF JROTC cadets around the world to receive the

scholarship from Headquarters AF JROTC, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama. More than 700 cadets applied for one of the 120 scholarships. There are more than 120,000 high school students enrolled in AF JROTC at over 880 high schools in the U.S. and overseas.

The scholarship covers transportation, room and



Amber Ginnetty

board, academics and flight hours required to potentially earn a private pilot license. The scholarship is valued at approximately \$20,000.

The Flight Academy Scholarship program is a new Air Force-level initiative in collaboration with the commercial aviation industry to address the national civilian and military pilot shortage. AF

JROTC has been charged by the Air Force Aircrew Crisis Task Force to bring back the "luster of aviation" to high school students and increase diversity in aviation fields.

Those who participate in the program do not incur a military commitment to the Air Force or other branch of service, nor does completing the program guarantee ac-

ceptance into one of the military's commissioning programs.

The mission of the AF JROTC is to develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community, while still instilling values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility and sense of accomplishment.

The Upper Room Announces Co-Parenting Classes

The Upper Room, a Family Resource Center, is announcing the co-parenting class: "Crossroads of Parenting & Divorce" offered March 5, 12, 19 in our office at 36 Tsienneto Road in Derry.

This 5 part class is designed to address concerns and questions that separating and divorcing parents have, and explore how

to keep the focus on the needs of their children. Using a mix of video content and group discussion, parents are encouraged to be aware of how their actions may affect their children. The attendees work on skills that help them stay child-focused, and discuss ways to make good choices in an environment of conflict and loss.

Brenda Guggisberg, Executive Director of The Upper Room, explains that "As a Family Resource Center, our aim is to help families and children thrive and flourish, and helping separated and divorced parents be effective co-parents is part of that mission. These are really 21st-century skills for co-parents to keep themselves and their children

healthy while navigating the divorce process. We are committed to offering evidence-based programs, and this series does just that."

To learn more about Crossroads, please visit URteachers.org/parenting

About The Upper Room
Founded in 1986, The Upper Room, a Family Resource Center is a non-

profit 501(c)(3) organization committed to strengthening individuals and families by providing them with the education, services and resources needed to lead healthy, self-sufficient lives. Our center is a warm, welcoming place where families receive information and support not only in times of crisis but on a day-to-day basis. We place no boundaries on

service, and help all who come to our center seeking support. For more information, call (603) 437-8477, or visit our website at URteachers.org

For other press-related inquiries, please contact Brenda Guggisberg, Executive Director

603-437-8477 or bguggisberg@urteachers.org

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