

e-Ticker News of Claremont

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**Lunch Program Debt
Climbing Again;
page A18**

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January 13, 2020

Their Beat Covers 552 Square Miles

Sullivan County SO Serves 43,000 Residents in 15 Communities

By Eric Zengota
e-Ticker News

NEWPORT, NH—*But what do you all actually do?*

“You can’t imagine how many times I’ve been asked that question,” says John Simonds, high sheriff of the Sullivan County Sheriff’s Office. He adds, with a smile of mild exasperation, “and the next question is, *Where is the office, anyway?*”

The office, one of 10 in New Hampshire, is on Main Street in Newport. At present it has 12 deputies, a sergeant, a captain, a chief deputy and three bailiffs. It serves as the hub for a wide variety of duties. “We’re different from a police department,” notes Simonds, “because we handle both criminal and civil law matters.”

Deputies transport prisoners from jails anywhere in New Hampshire to the Newport District Court. If the inmate is in the state prison in Concord, a 4-hour round trip, then half a deputy’s day is spent on the road.

Deputies stay throughout a court session to prevent contraband being passed from family or

(Continued on page A8)



Sheriff John Simonds relies on his PC to check team reports and the daily flood of emails (Eric Zengota photo).

Fugitive Search, Felony Arrests in Alstead Announced by NH State Police

ALSTEAD, NH—On January 10, at approximately 8:30 a.m., Troopers from Troop C conducted a motor vehicle stop on Rte.123 in Alstead, NH, in order to effect the arrest of the vehicle’s occupants, both of whom had active arrest warrants, said the NHSP. The driver of the vehicle, Jennifer Ritchie, 37, Alstead, NH, surrendered without incident and was taken

into custody. The passenger in the vehicle, James Crawford, 32 Alstead, NH, fled on foot during the stop, running through a shallow river and into the nearby woods. Troopers set up a perimeter around the area, and deployed a K9 Unit as well as the New Hampshire State Police Helicopter to assist in the search. Throughout the morning, and into the early af-

ternoon, police personnel searched the wooded areas of Alstead, East Alstead, and South Acworth looking for Crawford. Area schools in Alstead and Acworth were notified of the incident. At approximately 2:35 PM, police were notified of someone matching Crawford’s description having been seen on a property off of
(Continued on page A2)

Alstead, from A1

Old Settler’s Road in East Alstead. Troopers responded there immediately and encountered Crawford, who fled on foot. Shortly thereafter he was apprehended and taken into custody with the assistance of a State Police K9.



Jennifer Ritchie

Ritchie is charged with the following:

- Endangering Welfare of Child
- Tampering with Witnesses
- Hindering Apprehension or Prosecution
- Operating After Suspension
- Operating with a Suspended Motor Vehicle Registration

Crawford is charged with the following:

- First Degree Assault
- Tampering with Witnesses (2 counts)

- Second Degree Assault (2 counts)
- Aggravated Felonious Sexual Assault (2 counts)
- Incest (2 counts)
- Falsifying Physical Evidence
- Resisting Arrest
- Violation of Probation



James Crawford

Ritchie was held without bail. Crawford was held on a detainer from the office of Probation/Parole. Both will be arraigned on their respective charges in Cheshire County Superior Court on Monday January 13.

The New Hampshire State Police would like to thank NH Fish and Game, the Alstead Police Department, and the Walpole Police Department for their assistance with the search. These charges are the culmination of a lengthy investigation initiated in 2019.

the country for over 30 years, entertaining hundreds of prominent corporate clients and opening for over sixty international stars such as Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, The Beach Boys, Chicago, Tony Bennett and Tom Jones. He co-starred in the Showtime movie, ‘The Godfathers of Comedy’ and is the author of two multiple award-winning books, ‘Stories I Tell’ and its sequel, ‘More Stories to Tell’.

As a New England front-runner in Pop-Country music, singer/songwriter James has amassed more than 16,000 Facebook fans in her short career. She’s toured up and down the Northeast and beyond with her message of feel-good, be yourself lyrics paired with a soulful vocal performance. Lexi James has shared the stage with country legends such as Charlie Daniels Band, Marshall Tucker and Brad Paisley.

She recently released her last record, “Ripple in the Water” in 2018, and in 2019 she expanded her touring and moved to Nashville part-time!

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at www.claremontoperahouse.org with print-at-home option, by phone at 603-542-4433 or in person at the Opera House Box office in City Hall Complex at 58 Opera House Square.

‘Yee Haws and Ha Has’

Two Acts for the Price of One at COH

CLAREMONT, NH—The Claremont Opera House will be featuring a special program at 8pm, Saturday, Jan. 25: Comedian Paul D’Angelo and Nashville recording artist Lexi James will be co-headlining a “Yee Haws and Ha Has” event for an hour of country music followed by an hour of stand-up comedy.

D’Angelo has been headlining A-List comedy clubs around

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Phyllis A. Muzeroll
Publisher/Editor

Eric Zengota
Contributing Writer/Photographer

Bill Binder
Photographer

etickernews@gmail.com

Snail mail to:
6 Osgood Ave. Claremont, NH 03743
603-542-7319

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01/11/2020

NH PowerBall

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 CELL: (603) 477-4671

2 Pleasant Street, Suite 3, Claremont, NH 03743

Located in the Brown Block.

Details of Fatal Pedestrian/Motor Vehicle Collision in Newport Released

NEWPORT, NH—The Newport Police Department Emergency Communications Center received several 911 calls at approximately 3:30 P.M., Jan. 9, advising that there had been a pedestrian struck by a dump truck on Sunapee Street at Bald Mountain Road. According to a press release from Newport Police Chief James Burroughs, “The Newport Police, EMS and Newport Fire Rescue responded and found that the truck, which is owned and operated by Yukon Trucking, located in Newport, was being operated by Carl Mears, 76, Ascutney, VT. The truck was making a left hand turn from Bald Mountain Road onto Sunapee Street in Newport before the pedestrian was struck.” Burroughs identified the pedestrian as: Robert Ray, 55, Claremont, NH. Ray was pronounced deceased at the scene, said Burroughs. Assisting in the investigation of the incident was the NH State Police Motor Carrier Unit, The NH Medical Examiner’s Office and the Sullivan County Attorney’s Office. Assisting with the road closures and detours were the Newport Highway Department and the Sunapee Police Department.

At this time the cause of the incident remains under investigation by the Newport Police Department Accident Reconstruction Team, said Burroughs. If anyone witnessed the incident, they are asked to please contact Lieutenant Robertson at the Newport Police Department 603-863-3240.

This is the second fatal pedestrian accident in Newport in the last two weeks. The Newport Police Department Communications Center received several 911 calls at 7:25 P.M. Saturday night, Dec. 28, advising that there had been a motor vehicle collision with a pedestrian on North Main Street near Yoshi’s Convenience store. According to the Newport Police Department, the Newport Police, EMS and Fire Rescue responded to the scene and found that Carlton R. Barton, 80, Newport, NH, had been struck while crossing North Main Street having just left Yoshi’s Convenience Store. He sustained serious injuries and was transported from

the scene by the Newport Ambulance Service to Valley Regional Hospital, where he later succumbed to his injuries, said authorities. Neither speed nor alcohol appear to be factors in that collision, authorities said at the time of the accident; Barton was not utilizing a crosswalk when he was struck, they added.

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friendsofandrewohearne@comcast.net

District 4/Ward 2: Gary Merchant
603-542-2228

gary.merchant@leg.state.nh.us

District 5/Ward 3: Walter Stapleton
603-542-8656

WaltStapleton@comcast.net

District 10/Wards 1, 2, 3: John Cloutier
603-542-6190

jocloutier@comcast.net

Senate – Claremont

District 5: Martha Hennessey
603-271-3067

martha.hennessey@leg.state.nh.us

District 1 Executive Councilor

Michael Cryans
603-271-3632

Michael.Cryans@nh.gov

Washington, DC

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-2841

<http://shaheen.senate.gov/contact>

Sen. Maggie Hassan
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3324

<https://www.hassan.senate.gov/>

Rep. Anne Kuster
137 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
phone: 202-225-5206

<http://kuster.house.gov/contact>

Letters to the Editor

Variance Sought to sell ‘Adult Toys’ Not What Claremont Needs

To The Editor:

I am urging citizens of Claremont to come to the next Zoning Board of Adjustment (city calendar, Feb. 3, 2020, Council Chambers, 7 pm) to speak against the proposed expansion of “sex toys” at the Magic Mushroom, Washington Street. The zoning ordinance states that the “the zoning administrator, or his/her designees, shall administer this chapter literally and shall not have the power to permit any use of land or buildings which is not in conformance with this chapter”. This means that the zoning administrator has the mandate and the authority to say NO to this expansion of business that is in violation of the city’s zoning ordinance, specifically, Sec. 22-562 (b)(1)b. - Special use permit: Sexually oriented businesses shall not be located within two hundred (200) feet of property used for any of the following uses: 1. Public or private school; 2. Child day care agency (as defined by RSA 170-E:2, IV, as amended); 3. Public recreational field, trail or similar public-owned facility; 4. Religious institution, church, or place of worship; 5. Hospital, nursing home, or sheltered care facility; 6. Single or multifamily residence.

I have had several conversations with people in Claremont and some seem to be of the opinion that this is a normal business and this type of sexually-oriented material is everywhere. This is not a normal business expansion. The city’s Master Plan states that its purpose is to promote the health, safety, and welfare of Claremont’s residents and visitors. The plan also says it gives Claremont a sense of identity and it explains the necessity of a zoning board to protect us. The plan also speaks to positive growth and the expectation of high quality community services, amenities, cultural opportunities, and schools.

The proposed expansion of this type of business is not what the taxpayers who developed the Master Plan were expecting. Come out and voice your opinion. A variance should not be authorized according to the Master Plan and the zoning ordinances and we should be protected in accordance with Claremont City Ordinance.

James M. Contois
Councilor, Ward II

Supports Bernie Sanders for President

To The Editor:

Though I live in New Hampshire, I feel like I’ve known Vt. U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders for a long time - many people I know feel the same way. He is elected over and over by comfortable margins, because he has always worked “for the people” - seniors, veterans, workers and their wages, the economy and the environment.

We know he is very knowledgeable on social security, women’s rights, climate change and the cost of medicine.

On the issue of endless war, Bernie voted “No” to the Iraq War, while his opponent Joe Biden voted for the Iraq War. We know Sen. Sanders to be a man of principle.

Bernie is on a roll - polls show him to be the favorite of a cross-section of N.H. voters. This diversity, dedication and large number of campaign contributors and volunteers should carry him to election victory on Feb. 11.

It’s time for undecided voters to pick their presidential candidate. I recommend reading up on Bernie, checking him out on YouTube and/or attending a Bernie rally, soon.

Let’s put Bernie in the White House to work for the people.

Bill Gallagher
Cornish, NH

We welcome Letters to the Editor.
Please include your name, address and phone number.

Claremont Opera House Launches 2020 Membership Campaign

CLAREMONT, NH—The Claremont Opera House has launched a fresh approach to membership for the 2020 calendar year. The objectives of the new membership campaign are to offer members unique benefits, to fund a series of fun pop-up events for smaller audiences, and to introduce new patrons to the COH. Members will be more engaged with special programming for them, while they continue to support the ongoing operations and maintenance of the historic opera house.

The 2020 membership fee structure is \$100 for Silver members and \$250 for Gold members. Benefits to all members include:

- Two free tickets to the kickoff Jazz Speakeasy on January 18th.

- Access to the historic Ladies Parlor for concessions during the intermission of selected shows.

- Chances to win ticket giveaways for regular season shows.

- Ability to purchase tickets prior to them going on sale to the public.

- Listed on the Membership Wall of Fame.

In addition to these benefits, Gold members will receive two free tickets to every pop-up event.

Pop-up events will provide experiences that are more than just coming to watch a show. For the Speakeasy, attendees can only enter through a back door to the Opera House and they must know the password (access also available via the elevator). There will be beer/wine service, and other surprises are in progress. All while listening to a live jazz quin-

tet from Gerry Grimo and the East Bay Jazz. A Valentine matinee of Sinatra favorites is planned for February, and a folk music concert with live art is in the works for April. Future pop-ups will be based on member input and preferences. Pop-up tickets will also be on sale to the general public for \$15 each.


More details about the membership program are available on the COH website: www.-claremontoperahouse.org and questions can be directed to members@claremontopera-house.org.

Dancing with the Newport Stars Jan. 24th, 25th

NEWPORT, NH—The Newport Area Chamber of Commerce is once again proud to partner with the Newport Opera House Association to present Dancing With The Newport Stars, Friday, Jan. 24th, and Saturday, Jan. 25th. Both shows start at 7pm on the historic Charles Massey stage inside the Newport Opera House. This annual tradition will feature 10 local “stars” partnered up with 10 local “professionals” dancing on stage, with the audience in attendance voting for who they want to win each night’s competition.

Once again this year, Dancing With The Newport Stars will have two different categories, Adult and Student dancers. The six adult couples will compete against each other, as will the four student couples, with one winner for each category awarded each evening. This fun evening has become a large fundraiser for the Chamber and Opera House Association. The 2020 cast lineup for Dancing With The Newport Stars is Bobby Bates, Sam Nelson, Scott Barton, Lisa Ferrigno, Fran Huot and Donna Mahair for the adult dancers; junior dancers are Natasha Whipple, Allie Howald, Cameron Hall and Cody O’Brian.

Tickets are \$25 - reserved seating, \$20 - general admission, and \$15 for student general admission and can be purchased online at NewportOperaHouse.com, at the Newport Opera House Box Office, or at the Petal Patch.



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An Open Letter to the Community *We are Thankful for You*

We come into 2020 filled with gratitude and hope – hope for the survivors we work with; hope for a safer community for us all to live and work in; and gratitude for the exciting future here at TPN with the upcoming relaunch of our thrift store, Changes, and the groundbreaking of our new office facility on Broad Street.

These feelings are largely due to the tremendous outpouring of support from this community.

From every corner of Sullivan County, the generosity and steadfastness of our donors and sponsors, whether you are an individual, business or organization, is life-changing. From support with holiday wishes/needs, clothing, personal items and monetary donations to furniture for survivors starting over - or those who hold fundraisers on our behalf or come out for Steppin' Up to lead a team, fundraise, volunteer or walk/run - you provide the support that makes it possible for TPN to have worked with the more than one thousand survivors of domestic and sexual violence, stalking and sex trafficking in the last year who needed our help in achieving safety and healing. You sustain us in all ways, large and small – thank you.

To the many foundations and grant-makers who support our agency, funding our emergency shelter and new office on Broad Street, for survivors needing immediate safety, funding our direct services programs that provide the supports survivors need to rebuild their lives, and funding our vital prevention programming, educating our youth across several school districts on healthy relationships and how to be effective bystanders – thank you.

You are impacting the community on every level, helping us to create a safer, healthier Sullivan County.

To the Schools, Faith Communities, First Responders, Community Partners, State Agencies, and elected representatives at the city, county and state and national level – thank you. As community leaders, we work together, a united front against violence, helping create the best outcome for survivors.

To our dedicated volunteers. The truth is, life is not always easy here at Turning Points Network – it is hard and challenging work. Yet you stand at the front line, a voice in the dark for those seeking help, ensuring supports and services are available to every single survivor, every single day, no matter what time of day or night. Your passion and dedication to ensuring the health, safety and healing of those who have been affected by violence is awe-inspiring.

Lastly, to all who stand beside us, in a myriad of ways, including those above, you are a shining light that has impacted our work exponentially. Because of you, hundreds of survivors and their families are safe, and many will never have to know the pain of abuse – and for that, we are most grateful. Thank you. Wishing you all a healthy and happy New Year!

OUR TURN is a public service series by Turning Points Network (TPN) serving all of Sullivan County with offices in Claremont and

Newport. We provide wraparound supports for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, stalking and human trafficking and we present violence-prevention education programs in our schools. For more than 40 years, TPN has helped people of all ages move from the darkness of abuse toward the light of respect, healing and hope.

For information contact 1.800.639.3130 or www.turningpointsnetwork.org or find us on Facebook.

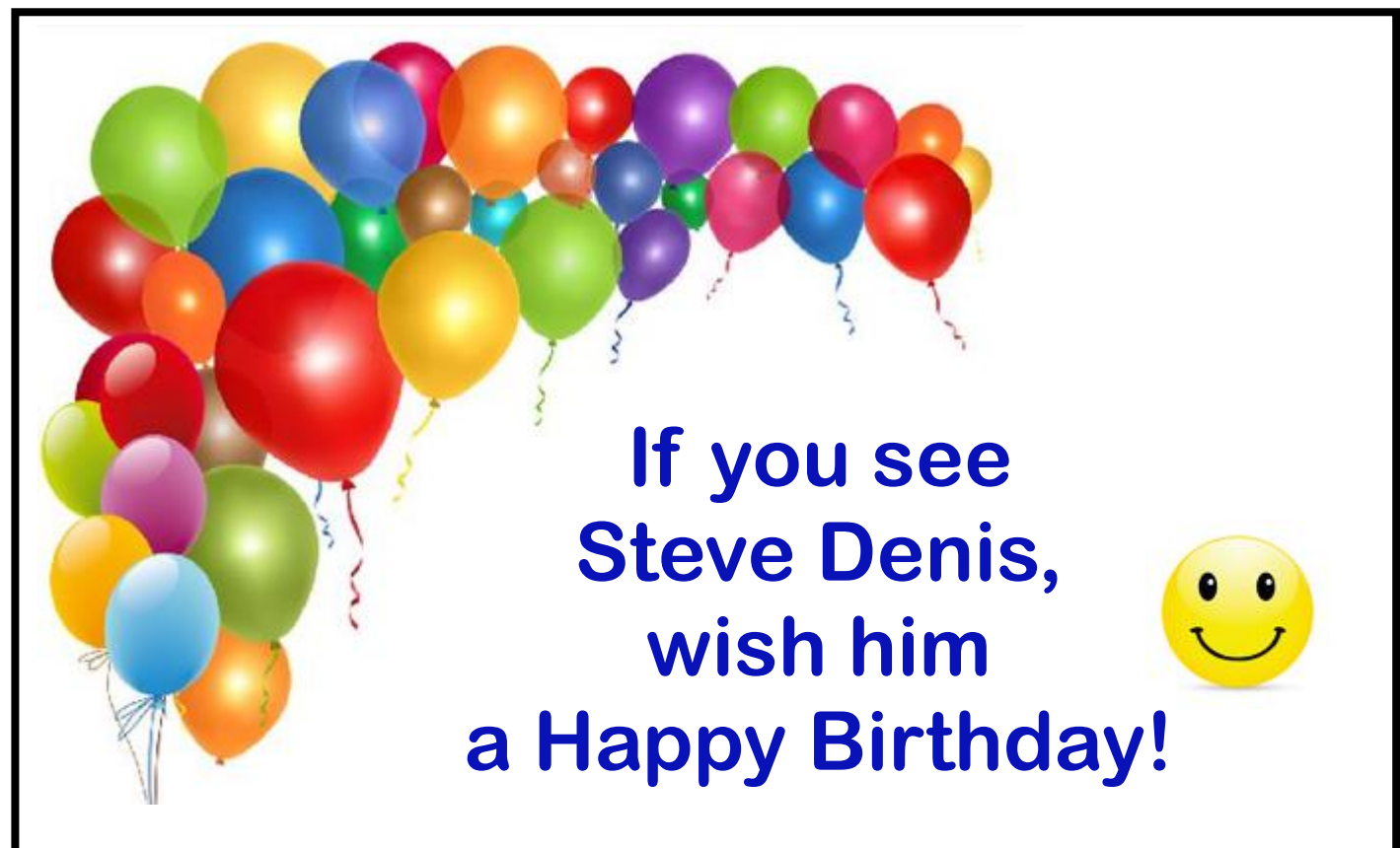
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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8
We Heart Art: Valentine's Day Art Projects at Saint-Gaudens NHP
10am-12pm
Location: Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park

Got a special someone in mind for Valentine's Day? Join us at Saint-Gaudens NHP in the Visitor Center ~ we'll create Valentine's Day cards, crafts and gifts. Great for families: materials, light refreshments and inspiration included!

Pre-registration is recommended. To register or learn more call (802) 457-3368 x222 or email us at emma_beck@partner.nps.gov.

More information can also be found on our website: <https://www.nps.gov/saga/index.htm>





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Sheriff's Office, from A1

friends to an inmate. "Contraband could be a letter, a strip of paper embedded with liquefied suboxone, or even one grain of carfentanyl," notes Simonds.

Extradition returns arrested individuals to the county.

"Once we receive a court-ordered warrant," explains Simonds, "we have the authority to arrest a person anywhere in the country. The county attorney determines warrants based on distance, the severity of the charge, and the expense, which his office pays for."

Deputies have driven as long as six hours to extradite a person. The office has often hired an outside company for that purpose. Simonds notes that "recently all our deputies were trained by Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office to be certified to 'fly armed.' This allows us to find the lowest price and buy airline tickets, saving the county money."

Deputies patrol the roads, with the authority to stop speeders and make arrests. They also assist at accident scenes, even if not specifically dispatched. "If I'm anywhere near an accident and have nothing else to cover," says deputy Justin Merrill, "I'll head over to see if I can help."

When Merrill is assigned to the night shift (4pm to midnight), some of those hours might be dedicated to policing for Lempster and Unity. Each town has contracted with the sheriff's office for 20 hours a week; selectmen determine which hours are needed depending on their own police resources. When the county is not patrolling, New Hampshire State Police take up policing duties.

On the "civil" side of the office's mandate, deputies serve papers such as divorce filings, eviction notices, and court warrants for unpaid child support. Warrants like those relating to domestic violence are considered "high risk." Tensions are increased, emotions can be out of control, alcohol and drugs can spark physical violence.

Simonds tries to make evictions as stress-free as possible. "We send a 3-day courtesy notice, alerting the individuals that 'we will be back to remove you,'" he says. "When the elderly are involved, we work with social services because frequently they have no family or friends to go to. Once a man accused us of abusing his pet, then complained of chest pains, so we called in the EMTs."

For chief deputy Jeremy Wilson, having to separate children from their parents in accor-



Chief bailiff Mike Nelson monitors a bail hearing in Newport District Court. Bailiffs are responsible for the security of the the courthouse. They screen all visitors, escort defendants back and forth between courtroom and jail cell, and ensure that cases are heard on time (Eric Zengota photo).

dance with a judge's order "is the worst possible scenario I have to deal with." DCYF caseworkers help lessen the trauma of such separations.

The office is in constant radio contact via the dispatch center housed in the Claremont Police Department, and is ready to support other agencies in an emergency. When word on last August's armed stand-off in Claremont came through, Simonds immediately contacted police chief Mark Chase. "I asked, 'What help do you need from us?' and we headed over for the duration."

The sheriff's office is first to respond to incidents at two county facilities in Unity, Sullivan County Health Care (the nursing home) and the House of Corrections.

At 10:45 one morning in September, a man called the nursing home to say that he was bringing a bomb there. The facility was put into semi-lockdown status. Deputy Glen St.

Amant conducted an expanded perimeter check around the grounds, interviewed the receptionist and ID'd all new visitors. Meanwhile, Wilson worked with the home's facilities staff and the phone company to trace the call. In the end, there was no bomb and no identification of the caller, but, as Wilson noted, the protocol would have been different if the caller had said there was a bomb in the facility.

Deputy Heather Shea-Clark, the office's administrative assistant, managed a recent sheriff's auction. "We received a writ of execution regarding money owed on a sale of equipment and machinery. That authorized us to recover the plaintiff's money any way we could. We processed a bulky article attachment with an inventory of the assets and mailed demand letters to the defendant. There was no response, so we proceeded with the sale." After an auction, Shea-Clark forwards the proceeds

(Continued on page A9)

Sheriff's Office, from A8

— minus administrative fees — to the plaintiff.

Simonds recognizes the serious, at times grim tone that colors every work day. "Let's face it," he says. "In every incident we're involved with, fifty percent of the people are happy with us and the other fifty are not." To counteract that, Simonds encourages engagement in community outreach.

Deputies become Santa's elves for the annual pre-Christmas Shop With a Cop event at the Claremont Walmart. For Wilson, whose least favorite duty is separating children from their parents, "This is one of the best days of the year."

A foursome plays in charity golf tournaments through the summer and fall. Twice a year, "Stuff a Cruiser" days collect food contributions, which are delivered to the Claremont Soup Kitchen. Deputies assist with the children's equine therapy program at Full Circle Farm in Newport, and go out to fairs and festivals.

By State law, all deputies "serve at the pleasure of the sheriff." That means that a sheriff can bring in a new team. But, says Simonds, "I'm happy to say that when I was first elected in 2014, everyone in the office stayed. Since then, we've hired new people as deputies retire. So I have to say that the most change we've experienced is just continually upgrading our technology."

Simonds' top-down philosophy encompasses his view that "in our office, we look at ourselves as a family, ready to serve all the residents of Sullivan County."

The e-Ticker News extends its appreciation to Sheriff John Simonds and his office for their assistance and time in helping us to tell their story.

Keene Man Sentenced To 40 Months For Drug Trafficking

CONCORD, NH—Michael Christian Steever, 39, of Keene, was sentenced to 40 months in federal prison for possession of fentanyl and cocaine base with intent to distribute and distribution of fentanyl, United States Attorney Scott W. Murray announced Friday.

According to court documents and statements made in court, between April 18, 2019,



Deputy Justin Merrill checks the rack to see which warrants he could serve during his shift (Eric Zengota photo).

and May 1, 2019, investigators made several controlled purchases of fentanyl from Steever. A federal search warrant executed at his Keene apartment yielded additional fentanyl and cocaine base, as well as scales and other materials related to distribution of drugs. In excess of 69 grams of fentanyl and 18 grams of cocaine base were seized in the investigation.

Steever previously pleaded guilty on August 29, 2019.

"The distribution of fentanyl and other illegal drugs has diminished public safety and destroyed lives in communities throughout New Hampshire," said U.S. Attorney Murray. "In order curtail trafficking in these lethal substances, we will continue to work closely with the Keene Police Department and all of our law enforcement partners to identify, prosecute, and incarcerate drug traffickers. Those who choose to sell dangerous drugs in New Hampshire should be aware that they will serve time in federal prison."

"Given its potency, 70 grams of fentanyl is enough to kill hundreds of people," said Jason Molina, Special Agent in Charge for HSI Bos-

ton. "Drug trafficking organizations that deal in this deadly poison will continue to face the full resources of HSI and our partners. Homeland Security Investigations is committed to helping combat this epidemic in New Hampshire and anywhere it exists."

Claremont Man Arrested in NY County

SARATOGA COUNTY, NY—The Saratoga County Sheriff's Office announced the arrest of Jake B. Sweeney, 31, of Claremont for Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2 Degree-C Felony. According to a Jan. 8th press release, Sweeney was arrested following a complaint of a disturbance at the Grand Prix Motel and the Round Lake Inn in the town of Malta. He was alleged to have possessed a loaded firearm during an altercation with other unrelated people at both locations. He was arraigned and held in lieu of \$15,000 bail or \$30,000 insurance bond; he is to reappear in court at a later date.

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**Ashley Bergeron
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Weatherization Technical Assistant

SCS is currently seeking a full-time Technical Assistant for the weatherization program within our Energy Services Department. This position will be located in our Keene, NH office with travel to towns throughout Cheshire County and Sullivan County, as needed. The Technical Assistant will assist with aspects of the weatherization and energy efficiency work completed in the homes of individuals with low and moderate income.



Duties will include billing for individual jobs, assisting in the field to complete individual jobs, and other technical tasks, as assigned. This position requires professional, courteous, and effective communication with clients, staff, and sub-contractors, as well as a willingness to learn and participate in additional training. Strong organization, computer, and customer service skills are required. Typical hours are M-F, 8:30-4:30 p.m. with some variance when needed. The starting pay is \$15-17/hour, depending on experience and/or education.

The SCS Weatherization Program offers a comprehensive benefits package, including, but not limited to, health and dental insurance, paid time off, eleven (11) paid holidays, 403(b) pension plan, flex spending accounts, paid lunch hours, and training opportunities for professional development.

For a full job description and employment application, please refer to our website at www.scsHELPS.org.

**Please send applications by January 24, 2020, to:
Beth Daniels, Chief Operating Officer**

bdaniels@scshelps.org

No phone calls please.

SCS is an EOE and a Partner of the United Way

Classified Ads

PUBLIC NOTICE

Claremont Development Authority
Full Board Meeting
Thursday, January 23, 2020 7:30 AM
Visitor Center, 14 North Street
Claremont, NH

CLAREMONT Energy Advisory Committee PUBLIC Meeting

Monday, January 20, 2020 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Visitor Center, 14 North Street
Claremont NH

Intro to 3D Printing

CLAREMONT, NH—Intro to 3D Printing is for anyone that has zero to little experience with 3D Printing. We will provide an overview of 3D printers and the printing process – covering everything from the way 3D printers are built through the ways we use them to create objects. In this beginner level class, we will discuss different methods of 3D printing and cover the fundamental steps for designing and printing models. Participants will get to know how the MakerSpace's printers – the LulzBot Taz 6 and Lulzbot Mini – work, and how to use them safely. Following the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to sign-up for certification sessions on these machines, so that they can use them on their own at the CMS.

Bringing your own laptop is strongly encouraged!

Note: Individuals with no prior 3D printing experience are required to take this workshop before getting certified to use the CMS's 3D printers. If you already have experience with 3D printers, you may be eligible to test out of this training. For more information, please

contact electronics@claremontmakerspace.org

Workshop Fee:

CMS Members – \$45

Non-Members – \$50

About the Instructor: Tiffany Vincent

Tiffany Vincent is an electronics guru, en-

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thusiast of cutting edge technologies, web developer and 3D printing evangelist. Tiffany has experience with an array of 3D printing technologies as well as CAD/3D modeling software. Tiffany is one of the Electronics Shop Leads at the Claremont MakerSpace, and keeps the MakerSpace's LulzBots running smoothly!

Claremont Makerspace, 46 Main St. Monday, Jan. 20, 2020, 6:30p.m.

To register, please go here:

<https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#!/event/2020/1/20/intro-to-3d-printing>.

Classified Ads

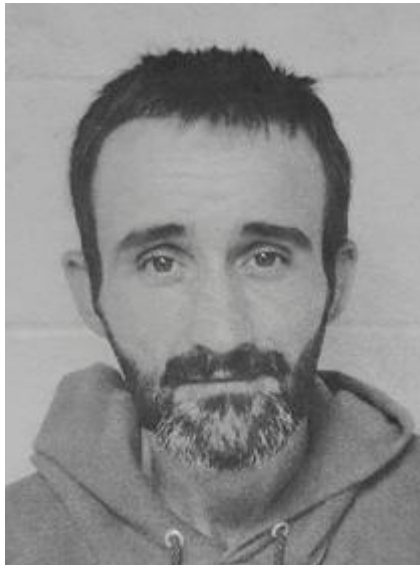
Sullivan County Fugitive of the Week

BRYAN A. ROBIE
DOB: 03/06/1986

LKA: Hanover Street, Claremont, NH

Description:

White male,
height: 5'2",
weight: 135
lbs., hair:
black, eyes:
brown



Reason:

Failure to
appear
Original
charge:
Theft by
Unautho-
rized Tak-
ing, Class B
Felony

On Sept. 29, 2019, Bryan A. Robie was arrested by Claremont Police Department for Theft by Unauthorized Taking. Robie was bailed and released. As part of his bail conditions, Robie was ordered to appear in Sullivan County Superior Court on Oct. 10, 2019.

Robie failed to appear in Sullivan County Superior Court on Oct. 10, 2019, and as a result the Sullivan County Superior Court issued a warrant for the arrest of Robie for failure to appear.

On November 20, 2019, the Sullivan County Grand Jury indicted Robie on the theft by unauthorized taking offense. Robie was given a court date of Dec. 5, 2019. He failed to appear for the hearing and as a result, the Sullivan County Superior Court issued a warrant for the arrest of Robie for failure to appear.



Maintenance Supervisor

The City of Claremont is seeking a dynamic, organized, self-starting maintenance professional to join our team. This position requires an experienced person with basic maintenance, landscaping, carpentry, electrical and plumbing skills. General maintenance and cleaning as well as backhoe and landscape equipment experience is helpful. The right person is expected to have knowledge of; and manual skills in, repairing such items as plumbing and heating valves and pipes, electric switches, windows, doors and other wood materials, mechanical equipment, and in carrying out a full set of maintenance duties. May be required to work under adverse conditions such as sleet, snow, heat, cold, dust and dirt. Responds to emergency situations i.e., power failure, plumbing, heating, or vandalism problems. We are looking for someone who is a team player willing to work hard with the ability to communicate verbally and in writing. E-mailing and general computer software experience necessary. Must have a driver's license and clean criminal record.

This position offers a generous benefit package and starting wage of up to \$24.72/hour (DOE).

For more information visit our website at www.claremontnh.com. Submit credentials to: Human Resources Manager, City of Claremont, 58 Opera House Square, Claremont, NH 03743. Employment is contingent upon the successful completion of pre-employment requirements. Interviews will start the week of February 10, 2020. This position will remain open till filled. The City of Claremont is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The Fugitive of the Week is provided by Sheriff John P. Simonds of the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office. If you have any information regarding the whereabouts of this fugitive, please contact either the Sheriff's Office at 603-863-4200 or your local police department.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

WEATHERIZE II

Plainfield Elementary School Music Room.

7pm

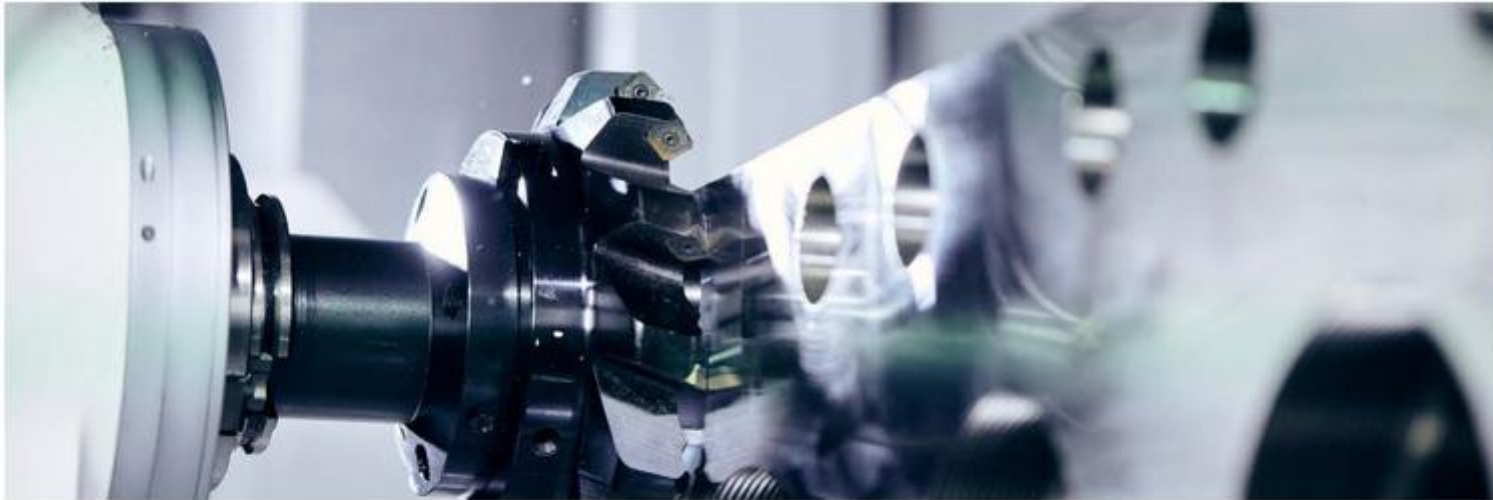
KICK OFF EVENT!

Plainfield and Cornish are teaming up again with NHSaves and local home energy contractors to help you save money, stay warm and reduce your energy usage by weatherizing your home. Meet the contractors, ask questions, and learn how NHSaves can help with the cost. (Snow date, January 29)

More information and resources online at plainfieldnh.org/energy/weatherize.

Contact your volunteer team at StevenALadd@gmail.com (Plainfield) or JoSharf@gmail.com (Cornish).

Basic Machinist Skills Free Adult Education Classes



Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center

SRVRTC Director Dr. Alex Herzog - aherzog@sau6.org

Claremont Adult Learning Center Coordinator – Kendall Duffy

Course Instructor Scott Pope – spope@sau6.org

Come and learn basic machining skills to be able to be employed in the manufacturing field from a 30 year Industry Veteran. Tuition is **FREE** for Sullivan County residents that meet the selection criteria. Guaranteed interviews with area companies include; Sturm Ruger & Co, RDS, GKN Aerospace, Lake Machine Company as well as others upon successful completion of the program.

Only 12 student slots available so apply now.

Classes run 5:30-8:30pm on the following Tuesdays and Thursdays:

January 21, 23, 28, 30

February 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20

March 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19

To register or for further information please contact us:

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e-Ticker Business News

Dr. Rachel La Rocca Joins Medical Staff of Ottauquechee Health Center



Dr. Rachel La Rocca

WINDSOR, VT – Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center, (MAHHC) has announced the addition of Dr. Rachel La Rocca to the medical team at Ottauquechee Health Center in Woodstock, Vermont as a family medicine practitioner.

Currently accepting new patients, Dr. La Rocca joined the staff in September of 2019. She works with patients of all ages who experience acute and chronic illnesses.

Dr. La Rocca is a 2016 graduate of the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, and was Co-Chief Resident in her residency with Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana in Missoula, Montana. Dr. La Rocca is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine.

She says she decided to become a physician because “I love to teach people how to best take care of their bodies. We only get one chance at a healthy life, and I feel it is a privi-

lege to give every patient the tools to be the healthiest they can be.” She adds, “A very important part of my health philosophy is meeting people where they are. Critical access hospitals are uniquely positioned to do this well, both in location and culture. I was raised in a town of less than 800 people. I chose MAHHC and OHC because it has such a strong history of excellent rural healthcare.”

Dr. Joseph Perras, President, CEO, and Chief Medical Officer at MAHHC, says that Dr. La Rocca’s arrival makes a strong medical staff even stronger. “Dr. La Rocca is a gifted caregiver with a passion for healing, and a desire to make a personal connection with the people she serves. Ottauquechee Health Center gives her an extraordinary opportunity to practice medicine as it should be practiced. I’m also excited about her leadership potential. During her education she stepped up as Co-Chief Resident, and as the President of an organization dedicated to promoting rural health, which is a great fit with our location and patients. On behalf of all of us, we give her a warm welcome.” Dr. La Rocca adds, “I am excited to work in a community health setting with easy access to world-class resources through Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. There are not many places in the country with such a great balance.”

When away from patient care, Dr. La Rocca spends much of her time outdoors. “I am a classic New England woman,” she explains, saying “I love to be outside—horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, gardening, even yard work.” She lives in Woodstock, VT.

New Poll Shows NH Voter Health Care Reform Policy Preferences

LEBANON, NH – More than 68 percent of registered New Hampshire voters support policies that will expand health care coverage, according to a recent survey conducted by the Saint Anselm College Survey Center. Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health (D-HH), which delivers care to a population of 1.9 million across Northern New England and operates New Hampshire’s only academic health system and top hospital, according to “US News & World

Report” rankings, released the poll results. D-HH CEO and President Joanne M. Conroy, MD, recently discussed those results as well as state and national health care policy views alongside experts from the early voting states of Iowa and South Carolina at a Bipartisan Policy Center event in Washington, DC.

“As New Hampshire’s largest provider of health care services and the state’s only academic health system, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health is on the front lines of health care delivery to first-in-the-nation primary voters,” said Conroy. “With varying visions on the future of health care policy in the U.S. and its central role in the 2020 presidential primary and election, we and our counterparts from Iowa and South Carolina believe it is critically important to share the sentiments of our respective states’ voters with candidates and Beltway decision-makers.”

The Saint Anselm College Survey Center conducted a poll from November 13-19, 2019, in which 512 registered voters in New Hampshire were asked to identify which of the following health care policy proposals they preferred. The results were as follows:

- Current system with a Medicare option for those who choose – 29%
- Keep the current system as-is – 25%
- Strengthen the Affordable Care Act (ACA) – 21%
- Medicare for All – 18%
- No opinion – 4%
- Other – 3%

Dr. Conroy shared the New Hampshire results and discussed leading approaches to health care reform alongside experts from Iowa, South Carolina and the national media at the recent Bipartisan Center 20/20 Health Care Series event. In addition to the Saint Anselm College Survey, Morning Consult, on behalf of the Bipartisan Policy Center, conducted an online survey among a national sample of 1,988 registered voters to understand where health care falls among other issues entering the 2020 election. Key findings of the Morning Consult Survey:

Importance of Health Care on 2020 Vote
Similar to a trend seen in the 2018 midterm

(Continued on A15)

e-Ticker Business News

Voters, from A14

elections, health care policy remains a top-of-mind issue for over half of all registered voters (56%) heading into the 2020 presidential election.

Health care is the most bipartisan issue heading into 2020. Of the issues tested, 66% of Democrats, 54% of Independents, and 46% of Republicans selected health care as one of the most important issues in their 2020 vote choice.

Sixty percent of New Hampshire voters selected health care as a top issue, followed by the economy (49%), immigration (31%), gun control (30%) and environmental policy (28%).

Public Health Issues & Health Care Concerns

Of the public health issues tested, half of voters say illicit drugs and opioids (48%) are common in their local communities, and 41% say mental health and behavioral health issues are common. A third of voters also say smoking and vaping are among the top three public health issues common in their local communities.

Seven in 10 New Hampshire voters (69%) select illicit drugs and opioids as the most common public health issue, followed by mental and behavioral health issues (47%) and smoking and vaping (37%).

Health Care Costs

Over half of voters select out-of-pocket costs (64%) and prescription drug costs (57%) as their most significant health care concerns.

Seventy-one percent of New Hampshire voters said out-of-pocket costs were most significant, followed by prescription drug costs (60%) and difficulty getting affordable or sufficient insurance (42%).

Health Care Reform

While 21% say they support transitioning to a single-payer system with a limited role for private insurance, 20% support improving the current system under the Affordable Care Act.

A plurality of New Hampshire voters (27%) support transforming to a single-payer system with a limited role for private insurance. Nineteen percent would like to improve the current health care system under the ACA, and 18% want to repeal and replace the ACA.

Health Care Funding

Assuming federal spending on health care programs will increase, voters are most likely to support increasing federal taxes on the wealthy segment of society to fund health care programs. On the other hand, voters oppose making changes to Medicare to fund health care programs.

“These results reinforce D-HH’s ongoing efforts to address the opioid, mental health and vaping epidemics facing our state,” added Conroy. “From our Moms in Recovery program for pregnant and parenting women who struggle with substance misuse, former NH Supreme Court Chief Justice John Broderick’s tireless efforts to destigmatize mental health issues and urge young peo-

to seek help, to our recent multi-state No Safe Vape anti-vaping campaign, D-HH is dedicating our resources and expertise on the public health issues and topics that concern New Hampshire voters the most. As we look towards the 2020 election, we hope all candidates will share their visions for addressing these critical issues facing our nation.”

Got Business News? Send to etickernews@gmail.com

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Claremont Senior Center
January 31, 2020
5:30 PM Award Reception
7:00 PM Award Ceremony

Recipients

Young Professional - Rachel Naugler Model Youth - Clara Avery
NonProfit - Baby Steps Family Assistance
Business - Mascoma Bank Citizen - Courtney Porter

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Lunch Program Debt Climbing Again

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—The local school lunch program debt is growing again and the means to solve the problem appears to remain elusive. While not a situation exclusive to the district—stories of similar cases across the US have been appearing in news stories on a regular basis in many parts of the country—it's a problem that is frustrating district officials.

The debt has risen to some \$43,967.00. SAU 6 Food Program Coordinator Danielle Skinner said Wednesday night at the school board meeting that the district has attempted to address the issue through certified letters, phone calls, assisting families with free/reduced applications and other means, but added that "We still have debt that is accumulating." Without finding a workable way to get families to pay, "the debt will continue, I feel," she said. She said they were using "best practices" to notify parents.

Some 142 students owe \$100 or more, totaling \$33,070.20. Of those 142 accounts, 54 of them were cleared out by the donation made in 2018 but now are back to owing some \$14,122.90.

A line item from the report shared with the board shows that the Unity Elementary School has a debt of \$1,997.25 owed by 42 accounts.

Claremont School Board member Jason Benware wondered how much it would cost to feed all the students in Claremont, saying that he is hearing "people complaining constantly on social media" that "we should feed the kids, it should be part of our taxes." He made a point to say that he wasn't advocating taking on that expense but rather felt that it needed to be discussed publicly, have the cost calculated and put to the voters.

According to Skinner, if the district were to go that route, state law would require paying for both breakfast and lunch for all students, at a cost of \$4.75 a day per student for 175 days.

Skinner said that the annual application was submitted on time and all claims for the 2019/2020 SY have been submitted for reimbursement.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29
'Cool' Snow Sculptures for Families

10am-12pm

Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park
You've got one extra day this year ~ why not spend it playing in the snow? Join us at Saint-Gaudens NHP for Building 'Cool' Snow Sculptures ~ get inspired by Saint-Gaudens own sculptures! Please dress appropriately for the weather; light refreshments included. Pre-registration is recommended. To register or learn more call (802) 457-3368 x222 or email us at emma_beck@partner.nps.gov

Variance Sought by Local Business to Sell 'Adult Toys'

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—While "adult toys" may not fall within the purview of most people, there apparently is enough interest in the area to prompt a local business to want to sell such items in town.

Leanna LeBarron, who owns the Magic Mushroom on Washington St., is seeking a variance to sell adult toys in a small section of her business location. She told the Zoning Board Monday night that they sell such items at their store in Springfield, VT, and have been asked to sell them at their Claremont store as well. The Magic Mushroom identifies itself on Facebook as "tobacco store • accessories • gift shop".

Current zoning in Claremont does not allow sexually-oriented products to be sold within 200 feet of schools, childcare centers, churches, public rec fields and trails, hospitals, nursing homes and sheltered care facilities or residences. There are two residences within that 200-foot radius, according to City Planner Scott Osgood. LeBarron said that she had talked to the City in 2016 but that the then City Planner had said zoning would not allow adding the items in question to that location since she wasn't "in the mapping" for it. She said she wasn't told she couldn't sell "adult toys", as she prefers to call them, "because that's what it is," she said. If she gets the variance she is seeking, she said the

products would be located in a 5'x7'-foot section that has a separate entrance from the rest of the store. Only those 21 and older would be allowed to enter that part of the business, and everyone would be carded. There would be no windows where outsiders could peer in to see the products for sale. There are also security cameras onsite. That space was once a tux shop that was connected to a bridal store. A few years ago, a jewelry store was located on that property.

LeBarron said that they also own the Family Fun Zone on Pleasant St.

Since filing the application for the variance, LeBarron has updated her plans and will be changing up one side of the store, adding a "teen to adult" themed area where they will sell knives, body jewelry, posters and other items. Because the new plans differ from the application and other information was also missing, board members asked her to provide paperwork with an exact floor plan and photos of the location for the next meeting which is scheduled for Feb. 3, saying that the new request lacked the necessary detail. Should the Zoning Board approve her request, she will then have to go to the Planning Board for its approval.

LeBarron said she and her husband have owned the Magic Mushroom for 13 years. They moved the business to Claremont after operating it in different locations in Ascutney, VT. They live in Reading, VT.

Zoning Board Chair Michael Hurd raised the point that this wasn't the first time a product line that included adult toys existed in Claremont, reminding those in attendance that Sunrise in Silver many years ago carried similar items, including those in question now. Since then, changes have been made to the zoning ordinances.



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Business Owners: Plan for Next Phase of Life

As a business owner, you're always thinking of what you need to do now. But you can't forget about the future – yours and that of your business. So it may be a good idea to consider your personal retirement plan and business succession strategy.

Let's start by looking at a few retirement plan possibilities:

- **Solo 401(k)** – This plan, which is also known as an Owner-only 401(k), is available to self-employed individuals and business owners with no full-time employees other than themselves or a spouse. A Solo 401(k) offers many of the same advantages of a traditional 401(k): a range of investment options, tax-deductible contributions and the opportunity for tax-deferred earnings growth. You may even be able to choose a Roth option, which allows you to make after-tax contributions that can grow tax-free. Your Solo 401(k) contributions consist of two parts: salary deferral and profit sharing. In 2020, you can defer up to \$19,500 of income, or \$26,000 if you're 50 or older. Your profit-sharing contribution is based on your earnings. The sum of your salary deferral and profit sharing can't exceed \$57,000 (or \$63,500 if you're 50 or older). If your spouse is employed by your business, you each can contribute the maximum amount allowed.

- **SEP IRA** – If you have just a few employees or are self-employed with no employees, you may want to think about a SEP IRA. You'll fund the plan with tax-deductible contributions, and you must cover all eligible employees. (Employees themselves cannot contribute.) You can generally contribute up to 25% of compensation, up to \$57,000 annually. And you can fund your SEP IRA with virtually any type of investment.

- **Solo defined benefit plan** – Not many businesses still offer pension plans, also known as defined benefit plans, but you can set one up for yourself if you're self-employed or own your own business. This plan has high contribution limits, which are determined by an actuarial calculation, and your contributions are typically tax-deductible.

A financial professional can help you choose the appropriate retirement plan. But you'll still need to think about succession planning. Of course, you can always sell your business outright at any time you like. Or you could leave your business to your children in your will, but if you give it to them gradually during your lifetime, you can become more confident they'll be able to manage the business on their own.

Another alternative might be to transfer the business with a buy-sell agreement, which allows you to determine when, to whom, and at what price you can sell it. Because you can establish the purchase price as your business's taxable value, a buy-sell agreement is useful in estate planning. If you want to keep the business in your family, you might want to consider funding the buy-sell agreement with life insurance, so family members can use the death benefit proceeds to buy your ownership stake.

In any case, given the complexities and tax issues involved with succession planning, you'll need to consult with your legal and tax advisors when creating a strategy. But don't wait too long. You can't predict the future, but by planning ahead, you can help achieve the outcomes you desire.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.



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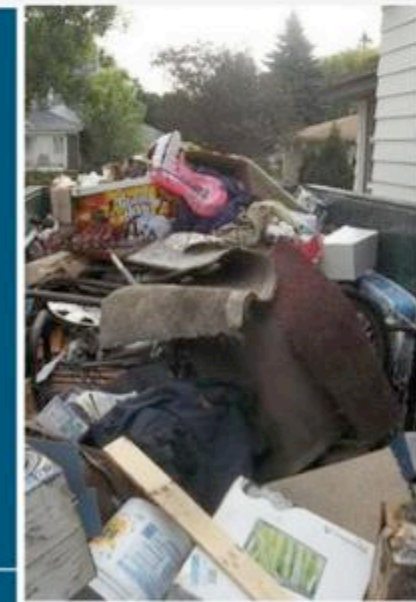
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New Claremont City Council Meets - Changes to Tax Exemptions/Credits

The new Claremont City Council was officially sworn in on January 2 and held its first regularly scheduled meeting on January 8. Comprised of six returning members and three new Councilors, we were off to a busy start as we considered committee appointments, tax exemptions/credits, grants, refugee status, compensation study and city manager goals. Prior to these discussions, I highlighted two events that are of great pride and a reflection of the community's investment. This article is Part 1 of a two-part series providing an overview of these events and the Council discussions that followed.

Recently, *e-Ticker*, an online publication, published an article titled "Stevens Students Surpass State Scores." At the Council meeting I read the following excerpt:

"Stevens High School students outperformed the average for the state on the ACT in 2019. "Stevens students earned an average composite score of 28.5," said SAU 6 Superintendent Mike Tempesta. "That level of achievement puts them in the 88th percentile nationwide." The ACT is taken by close to two million U.S. students annually. It assesses college-readiness in English, Math, Reading and Science using a 1-36 scale. Composite scores average results for the four subjects. New Hampshire ranked third in the nation this year with an average composite score of 25. The national average is 20.7."

Such achievement could not be realized without the commitment of students to excel academically and the investment of the community in its school district. Surpassing both the state and nation on ACT composite score averages is a great source of pride for the Class of 2019, the school district and City.

Another noteworthy event was the assistance that the Claremont Fire Department (FD) recently provided to our neighboring

town, Newport. In December, three members of the FD assisted in the rescue of an individual from a car that had gone over an embankment and was partially submerged in the Sugar River. Such situations are technically challenging, particularly in conditions that occur during winter months. The success of this rescue was attributed to the expertise of acting Captain Russ Chesaneck, acting Lieutenant Tim Vezina and Firefighter Kyle Lizotte, and the department's technical rescue equipment. Such an outcome would not have been possible without the investment that the community has made in its Fire Department.

After covering these events, the Council moved on to the business portion of the meeting. The first order of business was the appointments of community members and Councilors to various Committees. Participation on boards, commissions and committees is a critical component to the success of our City, and we have had many residents dedicate years of their life to such work. It was rewarding to see the number of people who applied to either continue or start serving on these boards, commissions and committees.

After appointments were made, the Council moved to the subject of tax exemptions and credits. The most recent discussion concerning changes to elderly tax exemptions and veterans credits began during the former Council's tenure. In October of 2019, the Council voted 8-0 to increase the veterans credit from \$125 to \$500. Due to my prior military service, I recused myself from the vote. At the same time, the Council also voted to accept the Chief Assessor's recommendation to increase the asset and income limits for elderly tax exemptions by 6.52%. Because some members of the Council believed that the 6.52% increase was still too low, the Council decided to send the issue to the Finance Committee for further review. The next Finance Committee will meet on January 16 at 4pm at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center to discuss this issue and develop a recommendation for the Council's consideration. Because the applicants must apply for tax exemptions and credits no later than April 1 this year, the Council hopes to finalize this work in February.

Charlene Lovett is the Mayor of Claremont and welcomes your feedback. Please email questions, comments or concerns to her at clovett.ccc@gmail.com.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 AND 19 Cantabile Music for Women's Voices 2020 Winter Concert

Cantabile Women will perform its first program of the 2020 season with the first concert, "Words of Wisdom," scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 18th and 19th.

In addition to familiar choral works, the repertoire will include music including poetry of Emily Dickinson, John Keats, Louisa May Alcott, Anne Frank, and William Shakespeare, and set to the music of Bach, Mozart, Childs, Diemer, Arnesen, and more.

Music Director is Kathy Sherlock-Green. Accompanist: Jeanne Chambers
Concert times are set for 3pm daily. The Saturday performance will take place at the Norwich Congregational Church, on the Green in Norwich, VT. Sunday concert will be held at the First Congregational Church, on the Green in Lebanon, NH. Tickets available at the door.

www.facebook.com/etickernews

 An advertisement for Valley Overhead Door, LLC. It features a large oval logo with a mountain range and the text "VALLEY OVERHEAD DOOR". Below the logo is a photograph of a dark-colored pickup truck with "VALLEY OVERHEAD DOOR" written on the front. The background shows a garage with a white overhead door.

We'll be there to keep you on track!

Valley Overhead Door, LLC
Claremont, NH 03743
(603) 543-0880
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Residential & Commercial • Sales & Service
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Valley Regional Annual Meeting

Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 5-7 PM

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Joe Perras, CEO and CMO of
Mt. Ascutney Hospital & Health Center, Windsor, VT

Claremont Savings Bank
Community Center
152 South Street, Claremont

HOP Stop

Family Shows

FREE



Lunar New Year Celebration

Sat, Jan 25, 3 pm

**CSB Community Center
152 South St.**

For ages 3+ with accompanying adult

Part of the Hop's Community Venture Initiative which provides new opportunities for Upper Valley residents to create, access and explore the arts.

**Hopkins Center
for the Arts**
at Dartmouth

