

e-Ticker News of Claremont

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**St. Joe's Sports Night
Draws Sellout Crowd;
page B1**

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April 2, 2018



The Claremont Parks & Recreation Department held its annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Arrowhead Recreation Area on Saturday. Kindergarten, 1st grade and younger, a huge group of over 250 parents and children, started at 9:30 a.m. and quickly cleared the icy slopes of eggs. Golden eggs were highly prized as they had a special prize inside; 2nd—4th grade and above started at 10:30 a.m. and they, too, had the hill cleared quickly (Bill Binder photos).

Investigation by AG into Conduct of Two Claremont Police Department Officers Announced

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--Attorney General Gordon J. MacDonald announced Wednesday evening that the Attorney General's Office has opened a criminal investigation into the conduct of Ian Kibbe and Mark Burch of the Claremont Police Department.

This investigation was initiated based on information received on March 15, 2018, from Claremont Police Chief Mark Chase, said the AG's office. The focus of the investigation concerns "allegations that while acting in their capacity as police officers, Kibbe and Burch falsified documentation related to a search that occurred in late February, 2018", said MacDonald in a press release.

"Because this is an ongoing criminal investigation, no further information will be provided at this time," said the AG's office. "Additional information will be provided when possible, consistent with our obligation to ensure the integrity of the investigation. All individuals are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty of a charged offense," MacDonald reminded

(Continued on page A2)

Investigation, from A1

the public.
Chase told the *e-Ticker News* that Kibbe and Burch "are no longer employees of the Claremont Police Department. Their status changed in the last week." Chase was unable to comment further, due to restrictions on discussing personnel matters.

This is not the first time that Kibbe has been placed under investigation. In 2016, he was investigated by the AG's office in an officer-related shooting which took the life of a 25-year-old Claremont man, Cody Lafont, following an incident at Lafont's home in which Kibbe reported that Lafont had been holding a gun and let his dog out, which ran toward Kibbe and then veered off. Following the state investigation, the AG's office released a 23-page report which concluded that Kibbe "of the Claremont Police Department was legally justified in using deadly force against Cody Lafont, and no criminal charges will be filed against Corporal Kibbe as a result of Mr. Lafont's death due to Lafont's conduct [when] he presented an apparent imminent threat of

deadly force to Corporal Kibbe when the two encountered one another outside of Mr. Lafont's residence." It was discovered during the investigation following the incident that Lafont's gun was not loaded.

The *Union Leader* reported that in light of the current investigation involving Kibbe, the AG's office is also reviewing the 2016 case involving the shooting.

RVCC Early College Registration for Bridge2College Now Open

CLAREMONT, NH--News from the RVCC Early College world has been released. Registration for its Bridge2College Summer and Fall 18 courses is now open.

Bridge2College is an early college/dual enrollment program at River Valley Community College that enables high school juniors and seniors to take college classes at a reduced rate of \$315-\$420 per course. This represents a savings of 50% off its regular tuition. This is an opportunity for students to earn general education credits that are transferable to other two and four year colleges.

Online classes are also available. Unlike most early college programs, Bridge2College allows high school students to take courses the summer after they graduate at the same reduced tuition rate.

"Most courses in our RVCC catalog can be taken through Bridge2College provided the student has the appropriate prerequisite and competencies. I can help navigate students and families through that process along with the academic advisors on our three cam-

pusess," said Jerry

Appell, Early College Coordinator at River Valley Community College.

"Many are already aware of the Governor's Scholarship that provides 100% reimbursement to New Hampshire students for two STEM related courses per year. Starting in the fall of 2018 the STEM tuition will be covered by CCSNH upfront and students will no longer be asked to bear that initial cost," added Appell.

For more information, contact Appell at 603-542-7744, Ext. 5349, or jappell@ccsnh.edu.

NECA Open House in Claremont April 4

CLAREMONT, NH--The New England Classical Academy (NECA) will be having an open house for prospective students, their families and current students and families on Wednesday, April 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 18 Central Street. Come and find out how a classical education will benefit your child(ren) as you visit with their teachers and students.

Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information please visit New England Classical Academy or email neca_office@yahoo.com.

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Member, Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce

NH Lottery Numbers

03/31/2018

NH PowerBall

8 24 52 55 61 21 3

Mega Millions 03/30/2018

11 28 31 46 59 1 3

Megabucks 03/31/2018

7 11 32 33 40 6

For more lottery numbers,
<https://www.nhlottery.com/Homepage>

Index

Commentary.....A4-A5
Classifieds.....A10-A11
Mayoral Notes.....A23
Les St.Pierre.....B1
Sports.....B1-B3
Inspiration.....B4
Calendar/Events.....B5-B112
Obituaries.....B13-B14
Claremont Fire Dept. Log.....B15
City Council Agenda.....B15

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Commentary

NH House Happenings

By Rep. John Cloutier

Help for Education, Lower Property Taxes Voted Down

Unfortunately, New Hampshire's House of Representatives has so far this year rejected all legislation that would have provided more state education funding as well as help reduce local property taxes.

The latest bills that could have increased education funding and lowered property taxes for many communities included House Bills 1814 and 1802. House Bill 1814 would have required New Hampshire's Education Dept. to distribute surplus state money to municipalities that are now losing education adequacy funds because of declining student enrollments, like Claremont, which are presently losing approximately four percent of these funds every year under the current state operating budget. The surplus money would have compensated such municipalities for the four percent annual losses and would have started on July 1, 2018. Distribution of the surplus would have cost our state government approximately \$6,829,840, according to the bill's fiscal note. But it would have resulted in extra money for many Sullivan County municipalities: An extra \$251,312 for Claremont, \$146,551 for Newport, \$100,801 for Charlestown, and \$17,076 for Unity, among others.

However, House Bill 1814 was rejected by a 228-102 roll call vote by the full House on March 7. This defeat came after a spirited debate on the floor, and a recommendation by a unanimous bipartisan majority of the House Finance Committee to reject the bill. Kearsarge Rep. Karen Umberger, a Republican, wrote the Finance Committee's report recommending its rejection. In her report, Rep. Umberger confirmed that the bill would have restored the earlier-described four annual percent cuts, which were first planned in the new education adequacy formula adopted by the Republican Legislature in 2011, and are now taking effect as part of the operating budget adopted by another Republican Legislature in 2017. Four percent cuts that are to continue every year until they are gone in 25 years. She added that the measure's funding was "indefinite," and would come from surplus state money, the amount of which would not be determined until after a final audit of the current budget that ends on June 30, 2019.

Nevertheless, House Bill 1814 sponsors were undeterred despite the Finance Committee's unanimous rejection recommendation, officially known as "Inexpedient to Legislate." By the way, the bill's sponsors were a group of four Republican representatives led by Franklin Rep. Werner Horn, and including Charlestown Rep. Steven Smith. Rep. Smith, in his floor speech urging support for the bill, asked the pertinent question of "Why is my money better in a Concord bank account than coming back to me?" Meaning that with a projected \$100 million surplus in the state's operating budget, why can't we in the legislature send some of it back to economically-challenged communities like Charlestown, Franklin, and Claremont? Money that could be used to



improve public schools and/or reduce property taxes.

I was one of the 102 representatives voting for House Bill 1814. I applaud Reps. Horn and Smith for introducing this bill. I also commend Rep. Smith for his courage to speak on the floor in support of the bill, and against the Finance Committee's Inexpedient to Legislate recommendation. I believe Rep. Smith exhibited courage in his speech because he is also House Transportation Committee Chair, and thus a member of House Republican Leadership. From my legislative experience it is rare for another House committee chair to make a floor opposing the recommendation of another House committee regarding a piece of legislation, no matter which political party has the House majority.

House Bill 1802 was another recently-defeated measure that could have communities like Claremont either improve their public schools and/or reduce property taxes. This bill was rejected March 21 on a 198-126 roll call vote. Its rejection followed a brief floor debate as well as recommendation from a 15-6 majority of the House Ways & Means Committee to reject the bill. Specifically, House Bill 1802 would have required property-wealthy communities to return any excess state education property taxes they have collected to the New Hampshire Education Trust Fund. Excess property taxes above the amount they would have needed to pay for an adequate education for the students in their school districts. Excess taxes that such communities are presently allowed to keep for themselves under the current education adequacy funding formula. The bill's sole sponsor was Concord Rep. Paul Henle, a Democrat, who spoke strongly in its support during a floor speech.

During his speech, Rep. Henle gave an example of how one property-wealthy community in New Hampshire benefits from the current education funding formula. This community is New London that collected a total of \$2,555,036 in state school taxes during a recent year, but only required \$1,161,073 in adequate education aid. Consequently, this collection resulted in an excess amount of \$1,393,963 in property tax funds which New London was allowed to keep, even though though the excess funds are from a state tax originally designed to help pay for the education of all New Hampshire students. Additionally, Rep. Henle estimated that more 40 communities like New London collected such excess property tax revenue for a total of \$29.7 million in extra revenue. Communities whose total property tax rate averages only \$13.19 per \$1,000 of property valuations, according to him.

Nevertheless, House Bill 1802 opponents like Meredith Rep. Marc Abear, a Republican, sated that the bill was unnecessary. Rep. Abear claimed that there was no demand for it from local school boards and school superintendents in our state. He added that its passage would reopen the "donor town" debate of about 20 years ago. A debate that raged when property-wealthy communities like New London briefly subsidized the public schools of property-poor communities like Claremont under the first state education property tax adopted in 1999 in response to the 1997 Claremont Education Lawsuit. A subsidization that was later eliminated in a later revision to the state property tax.

I also voted for House Bill 1802. Frankly, I believe there are better ways to pay for public education. But if New Hampshire is going to continue relying on a state property tax to help fund public schools, it ought to be fairer.

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**To find out who your local state
representatives/senators are in Sullivan
County, please visit**

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/members/wml.aspx>

and click on “Who Is My Legislator”

Letter to the Editor

Focus on the Positive and “Step Up to End Violence”

To The Editor:

From violent school shootings to the #MeToo movement and all things in between, sometimes focusing on the negative becomes so easy. Newspapers and magazines and broadcasting channels seek out gruesome story after story, any slightly positive story becomes contrived and fluffy in comparison.

There is something so alluring, yet disheartening about all the negativity, it becomes so intoxicating. I have had to set up superficial rules for myself regarding the news. Like, no news before drinking coffee, no news after exercising, no news before dinner, and definitely no news after brushing my teeth. It has become a routine to simply forget about the outside world and retreat into my own, news free, sanctuary.

Unfortunately, I have found that my rules only filter out so much negativity, it still seems to find a way to seep in. So, I have had to change my strategy.

Instead of fleeing from all the bad, I embrace the good. I welcome in the positive stories, the triumphant stories, the against-all-odds stories. More importantly, I embrace the community-togetherness stories.

In the search for hope and excitement, I stumbled across Turning Points Network which seeks to help survivors find their own sense of hope. Since then, I have learned about exceptional bravery, and determination, and tenacity.

Seeking out positivity, it is time to celebrate the bravery, determination, tenacity, and strength of survivors. Join me, and hundreds of other people, on May 5th to celebrate and support people who have experienced domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and harassment. I am steppin' up, because there is so much good in the world, and Turning Points Network's Steppin' Up to End Violence 5K is a reminder of that.

Remy Cusick

An AmeriCorps Vista Member serving at Turning Points Network

Shaheen Applauds Election Security Funding for New Hampshire

WASHINGTON, DC--Wednesday, U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, applauded the allocation of federal funding to assist New Hampshire with election security improvements. The funding, announced by the Election Assistance Commission, is made available through the recently enacted omnibus government funding legislation that Senator Shaheen helped negotiate:

“We know that there are continued efforts by adversaries to undermine trust in our elections and it’s important that New Hampshire joins states across the country in bolstering our election infrastructure,” said Shaheen. “I’m very pleased that the funding approved in the recent government funding bill is being quickly allocated to New Hampshire and other states, and I know that these resources will be put to good use. Additional security improvements will help ensure that Granite Staters continue to have faith in our electoral system.”

These funds will be used by states to purchase more secure voting systems, implement a post-election audit to ensure confidence in the vote, and address election systems’ cyber vulnerabilities. Senator Shaheen has been outspoken on the need to bolster election security, particularly in preparation for the 2018 midterm elections. Senator Shaheen has led efforts in Congress to hold Russia accountable for its interference in the 2016 US elections and for its continued aggression against Western democracies.

Shaheen has been an outspoken critic of President Putin’s authoritarian regime and was the first in Congress to call for hearings on Russian interference in September 2016. She was a key negotiator on the initial version of the Russian sanctions legislation that passed the Senate in June 2017, and was recently blacklisted by the Russian government, in part, because of her strong support for Russian sanctions.

Transitional Housing for Teens Gets Green Light

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--Last week the Claremont Planning Board approved a conditional use permit that will pave the way for transitional housing for teens aged 16 to 22. According to Trinity Dix of the Claremont Learning Partnership, there are 131 teens currently considered homeless in Claremont; homelessness can mean anything from “couch surfing” to sleeping in the woods. The program would provide a safer environment by providing a roof over their heads, and first priority would be given to those teens who have infants or small children. The plan calls for housing four to 12 individuals in six rooms, and there would be an on-site overnight manager to oversee any issues that might arise. The housing would be located in the same building where HOPE for NH Recovery was recently located, at the corner of Elm and Main Sts., with the rooms located on the ground floor. The building is now essentially home to a number of non-profits, such as Baby Steps, NH JAG and others that are seen as being able to help provide services to those staying there, such as teaching life skills and helping them to complete their education if needed. Additional help could also come from the TLC Family Resource Center and Turning Points Network. There are also talks with Southwestern Community Services to help address behavioral health issues. Extending the age to 22 is intended to help those who are not yet ready to enter the world as working, contributing members of society, giving them more time if needed to hone necessary skills.

The building is owned by Crews Holding. It was purchased by Melissa and Andy Crews when they expanded their network of recovery centers in the state. Recently, they closed the satellite centers, including the one in Claremont, at that location.

Dix said that getting approval last Monday night for the conditional use permit would help in nailing down grant funding, as monies are more readily available for sites that have been secured. The project still needs a site plan, and structural improvements to the building will be needed. Property manager Alan Croteau told the board that the plan would fill a gap as 16 and 17-year-olds can't rent or sign a lease

at those ages.

The board unanimously approved the plan, giving it the green light to move on to the next steps to bring the project to fruition.

Parking Rental Agreement Reached for Goddard Block

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--A parking rental agreement between the City and New England Family Housing, set to rehabilitate the Goddard Block on Pleasant St. in Claremont, was approved by the City Council Wednesday evening. Sufficient parking for future tenants had been a barrier that needed to be cleared before the project could be fully financed and carried forward. Now, that challenge has been cleared.

Space behind the building was allowing for only 14 parking spaces; Kevin Lacasse, owner of New England Family Housing, said he needed 36, or 22 from the City to provide what would be needed. He will be closing on the property on April 6; the agreement with the City will now allow him to access tax credit funding to move forward. He placed hard construction costs alone for the rehab at \$7.5 million. The block will be gutted and the space will include apartments on the first floor. Last summer Lacasse said the block had been in decent shape and renovated back in the 1980s. Conditions now were unsanitary, he said, and there were multiple safety codes, no sprinkler system and leaking plumbing behind the walls. “It’s a tinder box,” he said at the time but added, “Structurally, the bones are good,” he said of the building. Planned apartments will be studio and one and two bedroom. Lacasse said last year that he was looking at funding the project from a variety of sources, including a Community Development Block Grant of \$500,000, and private capital as well as affordable tax credits from the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority.

The parking space rental agreement works out to \$25 per month per space, and can be reopened every five years or can be mutually changed at any time. The agreement is conditioned upon the project being completed; the parking spaces in the agreement are public spaces near but not along the American Legion building and are not used to any great extent.

Lacasse also owns the Latchis building on Pleasant Street and has said in the past that he had “watched” the Goddard building “deteriorate over time”.

Planning Director Nancy Merrill told the Council that a group, including stakeholders, had looked into a possible 119-space parking garage in a spottily used lot on Pleasant St., but the assessment came in at a cost of \$4.9 million, or roughly \$38,000 per space, a figure they found shocking.

The Council unanimously approved the rental agreement.

County Bus Service Faring Well

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--The City Council received an update on transportation services being offered in the county, and by all accounts, the program is going well. Keith Thibault, Chief Development Officer of Southwestern Community Services, which took on the program, and Terri Paige, SCS Transit Director, both spoke at the Wednesday night meeting. Thibault said that “last October completed the first year of service” and that for the most part, things went “fine”. December completed their first full calendar year which saw them running in the black. Rebranding is planned in the near future, which will include a new name and logo. The program is working with a number of partners, including those on a county, regional and state level, and DOT was described as a “great partner” in helping to keep the transit system functioning. Federal monies, fares and local matches to access the federal dollars are funding the program, and there are plans to continue advertising opportunities on the buses.

The program has completed several audits in recent months and has been found to be in compliant with all the necessary requirements, including those necessary to receive Medicaid payments. Paige said they have seen more people using the buses to get to and from work and that the service is no longer being used “just” for medical appointments. The system is fully staffed with a full complement of drivers, although there is always a need for volunteer drivers. Some 5,500 riders were reported, with 3,200 coming from Claremont.



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NH Attorney General Among Others Asking FB for Information on Practices, Privacy

CONCORD, NH--Attorney General Gordon J. MacDonald has joined 37 other state and territorial Attorneys General in sending a letter demanding answers from Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg about the company's business practices and privacy protections.

As the Attorneys General write in their letter to CEO Zuckerberg, news reports indicate the data of at least 50 million Facebook profiles may have been misused by third-party software developers. Facebook's policies allowed developers to access the personal data of "friends" of people who used certain applications – without the knowledge or consent of these users.

The letter to Zuckerberg raises a series of questions about the social networking site's policies and practices, including:

- * Were those terms of service clear and understandable?
- * How did Facebook monitor what these developers did with all the data that they collected?
- * What type of controls did Facebook have over the data given to developers?
- * Did Facebook have protective safeguards in place, including audits, to ensure developers were not misusing the Facebook user's data?
- * How many users in the states of the signatory Attorneys General were impacted?
- * When did Facebook learn of this breach of privacy protections?
- * During this time-frame, what other third party "research" applications were also able to access the data of unsuspecting Facebook users?

The Attorneys General write in the letter: "Facebook apparently contends that this incident of harvesting tens of millions of profiles was not the result of a technical data breach; however, the reports allege that Facebook gave away the personal data of users who never authorized these developers to obtain it, and relied on terms of service and settings that were confusing and perhaps misleading to its users."

Sununu Announces 'Governor For A Day' Competition

CONCORD, NH--On Wednesday, as part of Women's History Month – a celebration of the critical role women have played in New Hampshire's economy, culture, and social fabric – Governor Chris Sununu officially launched the 'Governor for a Day' competition. In partnership with Girls Inc., Girl Scouts, and Granite Girls State, the 'Governor for a Day' competition presents girls in New Hampshire middle and high school with a unique opportunity to participate in the Granite States proud tradition of public service.

"As the father of a young daughter, it is important that the next generation of leaders in New Hampshire feel empowered to lead," said Sununu. "The Granite State has a long and proud tradition of public service, and we have to ensure that it stays that way for generations to come. The Governor for a Day competition is a unique opportunity for the next generation to explore their passion for one of our proudest traditions."

How to apply:

The 'Governor for a Day' competition is open to girls in Middle and High school in New Hampshire. Interested applicants should send in their answer to the question "If I were Governor for a Day, I would..." to GovernorForADay@nh.gov by April 30th at 5 PM. Video submissions can be sent as a private message to Governor Sununu's Facebook messenger account. Videos should be no more than one minute, and written responses should be no more than 250 words.

Or they may mail their answer to: "Governor For A Day", c/o Governor Chris Sununu, 107 North Main Street, Concord, NH 03301.

Applicants should also be sure to include the following information: Name, age, organization/school, grade, home address, phone number, email address, teacher contact information, parent or guardian name.

Note: Individual submissions not associated with Girls Inc., Girl Scouts, or Granite Girls State are also accepted. No flash-drives or cd-disks via mail. All video submissions must be made through Facebook.



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Benefits received from the Good Scout Award Luncheon have an estimated value of \$25.00 per person. Contribution amounts that exceed the fair market value of goods and services received may be tax deductible. All proceeds from the event benefit the Daniel Webster Council, a 501(c) 3 organization.

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Ashley Bergeron
Agent



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Classified Ads

Take Down Bird Feeders Earlier This Spring; Don't Be the Cause of a Bear Conflict

CONCORD, NH--As the winter season winds down and spring settles in, it is important to recognize that bears will become increasingly active throughout the state. Officials are asking the New Hampshire public to be both proactive and responsible and remove bird feeders and secure other backyard attractants. Although March 31 is the traditional deadline for ending winter bird feeding activity, more mild winters and the earlier arrival of spring conditions warrant modifications.

"During recent years, den emergence by bears appears to be a couple of weeks earlier as compared with historical trends, which is a direct result of milder winters and decreased snow pack," said Andrew Timmins, Bear Project Leader for the NH Fish and Game Department. "The strong spring sunshine, longer days, warmer temperatures, and receding snow level stimulate many wildlife species, including hungry bears, to start searching for available food. As bears start to get active, let it serve as a reminder that it is time to put the bird feeders away until next fall."

Reports of bear activity and sightings have become more frequent in recent days and many people are reporting seeing bears at their bird feeders, according to Timmins. By taking action now, you can prevent attracting a bear to your home. Do not wait for a bear to get the bird feeder and then respond. Doing so encourages foraging behavior by bears near residences. A single food reward will cause the bear to return and continue to search the area for food. Averting conflicts with bears requires increased responsibility and proactive behavior by the public. Feeding birds during the summer is a hobby that puts bears at incredible risk.

Bear-human conflict mitigation is far more successful when people are preemptive, and it is easier to avoid a conflict rather than resolve one, Timmins explains. Black oil sunflower seeds are simply too high a quality of food (high in fat and protein) for bears to ignore.



CITY OF CLAREMONT ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY (Part-Time)

The Claremont Police Department is seeking a highly motivated person to serve as part-time Administrative Secretary to assist the City's Prosecutor. The individual will be performing highly responsible clerical and record-keeping duties, requiring extensive knowledge of computers and working knowledge of office practices. Significant amounts of typing and filing. Associate's Degree or equivalent training and experience is required. The position starts at \$14 hourly.

Apply on line or to the Human Resources Coordinator, City Hall, 58 Opera House Square, Claremont, NH 03743

A complete job description can be obtained at www.claremontnh.com. This position will remain open until a suitable candidate has been selected. Offers of employment are conditional pending all pre-employment requirements. The City of Claremont is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Natural bear foods during spring and summer are generally high in carbohydrates and low in protein and fat. As a result, it does not make nutritional sense for a bear to ignore sunflower seeds.

Despite continued pleas asking homeowners not to feed birds during spring and summer, bird feeders typically are the direct cause of 25% of conflicts during years when bear-human conflicts are more abundant. In addition to bird feeders, other attractants that contribute significantly to conflicts included unprotected chickens and other poultry (23%) and unsecured garbage cans/dumpsters (38%). "If the public would be willing to address these three common attractants, we could immediately reduce annual bear-human conflicts by 70-80%, which would be tremendous," said Timmins.

Homeowners should take action to reduce the chances of a bear visiting their home. Avoid encounters with bears by taking a few simple precautions:

- Stop all bird feeding by April 1 or at the onset of extended spring-like weather conditions.
- Clean up any spilled birdseed and dispose of it in the trash.
- Secure all garbage in airtight containers inside a garage or adequate storage area, and put garbage out on the morning of pickup, not the night before. If using a dumpster, inform your dumpster company that you need a dumpster with metal locking tops and doors that are inaccessible to bears and other wildlife.
- Avoid putting meat or other food scraps in your compost pile.
- Don't leave pet food dishes outside overnight.
- Clean and store outdoor grills after each use.
- Finally, never feed bears!

For more information on preventing conflicts with black bears, visit www.wildnh.com/wildlife/somethings-bruin.html.

Dance When the Feeling Strikes You!

Country Rockin' With Copperhead Line Dancing

By Eric Zengota

Toe Strut Hip Bumps x 4

Only a few notes of the intro to Meghan Trainor's "Better When I'm Dancin'" have to kick in. Dancers surge from the sidelines and eagerly line up. Copperhead Line Dancing Instructor Conrad Farnham raises his arm, gives the count – "And 5-6-7-8!" – and on the beat everyone starts with struts and bumps – which lead to Monterey turns – which lead to rocking chairs and pivots and hip rolls. The dance floor is an instant kaleidoscope of boots, jeans and above all happy faces.

The class goes on for two hours. But no matter how fast the music gets or how challenging the steps become, no one wants the evening to end. They're high-steppin' in tune with Farnham's No. 1 Rule: Have fun!

Triple Right ¾ Turn, Slide Touch

Most welcome are folks with no dance experience and only a long-standing wish to try it out. They'll find only friendly people who, as Tonya Harrington put it, "help each other get better. We'll call out steps in the middle of a dance so that newcomers get up to speed." Harrington, from Sunapee, finds that "you don't have a care in the world when you're here."

Candy Durkee, of Hartford, VT, echoed her sentiments. "If the dance is new to you, just get up and try it. Follow us wall by wall and we'll all pretty much get it." She has danced in clubs from Burlington, VT, to Jacksonville, FL, for 30 years. She also gives demonstrations and leads workshops at fairs, parades, nursing homes and schools. "Follow the bands," she suggests. "Go to concerts, learn the music, and the dances will get easier and easier."

Grapevine Right Scuff, Grapevine Left ½ with Scuff

On the literal front line of all this is Farnham himself. He's been giving classes for five years, first at the now-closed Red I in Kelleyville, and since 2015 at Time-Out Americana Grill in Claremont. "I don't just teach other people's dances," he says. "I've choreographed about 60 myself, which are what I teach in the fall." Most are at beginner level because he doesn't want anyone intimidated by complex combinations, though he teaches



Jeremiah Durgin, 8, was an instant hit at class and has developed a bond with instructor Conrad Farnham (Eric Zengota photo).

advanced numbers at the end of some evenings.

In winter and spring, "I mix in dances by other choreographers, plus do some Throwback Thursdays to review my older work. On any night I add requests to the open-dance playlist so people can enjoy their favorites."

Farnham's dances have a life beyond the classes. He's led "undead" dancers down Pleasant Street during the past two Hallowesta parades to music like "Thriller," "Ghostbusters" and "Monster Mash."

Further afield, he makes instructional and demo videos for each dance and posts them to the copperknob.co.uk website where fans around the world vote on new dances. Several of his have gotten the 350 needed to break into the Top 100, and one, Born to Be Great to Kenny Chesney's "Some Town Somewhere,"

made it into the Top 10 in just one week. The site also has his PDF step sheets for download.

Paddle Turns Finishing With ¾ Turn, Swing Arm Over Head Like a Lasso

There are about two dozen regulars every week. Jessica Durgin of Claremont first brought her son Jeremiah, now 8, on a one-off my-night-out. "He was an instant hit," she said. "Everybody begged me to bring him back. And I love the bond between him and Conrad, who's a great teacher, really down to earth." A fast learner, Jeremiah has already co-choreographed with Farnham a Cotton Eye Joe EZ dance to the Rednex version of the fiddle- and drum-driven classic.

"I never expected to have a whole other family," said Jessica Durgin. This one has a

(Continued on page A13)



Dance instructor Conrad Farnham as he leads a class where experienced dancers help newcomers get up to speed with fun and high steppin' (Eric Zengota photo).

Dance, from A12

bonus, however: "No one is ever judged. There's never a bad word."

Naomi Golden, of Charlestown, couldn't agree more. Friends she's made "are my third family, after my birth and church ones." She builds on years of ballet and jazz studies as well as being on the dance team at Life Fellowship Foursquare Church. "I dance for hours alone at home," she said, but "it's better here where everyone is kind and accepting."

Stomp x 2, Clap x 2, Pivot Turn 1/2, Pivot Turn 1/4

Recent hits and standard country favorites, like the sly wit of Reba McEntire's "Livin' Ain't Killed Me Yet" and the propulsive back-road car chase in Brad Paisley's "Mr. Policeman," never fail to keep the class kicking, grapevining and stomping all night.

There are a few breaks to catch a breath. But soon enough, Farnham is beckoning the dancers back. "OK, now, 'Country Thang' by Nikki Briar. Ready?" And off they go, slappin' leather and boot-scootin' the night away. *Step Forward Right, 1/4 Pivot Left, Repeat, Jazz Box With a Hop*

For more information: Copperhead Line Dancing, Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., Time-Out Americana Grille, 101 Mulberry St., Claremont. \$10 per class.

copperheadlinedancing@gmail.com;
copperheadlinedancing.com;
facebook.com/copperheadlinedancing

Send news, photos to

etickernews@gmail.com



These boots were made for stomp'n' and rockin' to the music at Copperhead Line Dancing (Eric Zengota photo).

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e-Ticker Business News

Hassan, Internet Assn. Visit City to Discuss Internet and Economic Growth

CLAREMONT, NH--On Tuesday, Internet Association (IA) and Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH) hosted an Internet Community Crawl to showcase the value of the internet for local businesses and the community in Claremont. Participants toured four local businesses and community organizations, and the event concluded with a roundtable discussion on how federal policy can support the internet's role in driving economic growth. Senator Hassan highlighted the importance of reinstating net neutrality and expanding access to broadband in order to help innovative businesses – particularly those in rural parts of New Hampshire – succeed.

"The internet enhances economic and social opportunity in communities like Claremont around the country," said Michael Beckerman, IA President & CEO. "Americans now have more power to communicate, reach new audiences, and innovate using services enabled by the growing internet sector. I am proud to be joined today by Sen. Hassan, who continues to make internet-friendly policies a priority to support local economies."

"The internet is a powerful tool that helps support our innovative businesses and boost economic development in Claremont and across New Hampshire," Hassan said. "Today's internet crawl reaffirmed that reinstating net neutrality and expanding access to broadband are both essential to helping to ensure that all of our entrepreneurs and small businesses – regardless of where they are located in the Granite State – have the opportunity to reap the benefits of the internet and thrive."

According to Internet Association research, the internet economy supports 11 percent of New Hampshire's economy and directly employs more than 14,000 people in the Granite State.

Internet Association and Hassan visited four businesses and community organiza-
(Continued on page A15)

Sen. Maggie Hassan and Internet Association CEO Michael Beckerman visit with the owners of Jozach Jewelers, Lori Roy and her daughter Jordan Schucart, and on Pleasant St. during the internet crawl (Bill Binder photo).



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e-Ticker Business News

Crawl, from A14



Sen. Maggie Hassan visits with Jim Neilsen at REMIX in Claremont (Bill Binder photo).

tions to hear firsthand how the internet has enabled economic growth in Claremont.

The tour started on Pleasant Street, where the owner of REMIX Coffee Bar, Jim Neilsen, and Jozach Jewelers owner Lori Roy highlighted the internet's ability to bring the community together and help grow family-owned businesses. Senator Hassan and participants then stopped at Sullivan County Humane Society, where Vice President Sherry Bell described how the internet helps the organization fulfill its mission of finding safe homes for animals. The crawl concluded at The Common Man Inn, where business and community leaders, including Common Man's Director of Communications Erica Murphy discussed how the internet empowers growth in Claremont and communities around the nation.

Additional attendees included Internet Association member company representatives and Elyse Crossman, the Executive Director of the Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce.

Warning Regarding New Lottery Scam Issued by NH Attorney General

CONCORD, NH--NH Attorney General Gordon J. MacDonald has issued a consumer alert based on reports that scam artists are at tempting to contact New Hampshire citizens

seeking personal banking information.

Recent news of a New Hampshire winner of a significant lottery prize has given rise to increasing attempts by scam artists to trick unsuspecting residents into providing sensitive personal information. The Attorney General's Office has received reports of email, phone and text messages being sent to random citizens pretending to be a representative of the lottery winner. The scam messages go on to falsely claim that the citizen is the beneficiary of a large amount of money from the lottery winner and then asks for the person's banking information. In some instances, the scam messages provide the name and email address of a New Hampshire law firm.

These are all attempts to trick people into giving over sensitive personal information. The Attorney General cautions everyone in the State to carefully guard their personal information, such as social security number, date of birth, banking account numbers or credit card numbers, and to never provide that information in response to unsolicited phone calls, emails or text messages.

If you are the recipient of an email, phone call or text message promising a share in lottery winnings, do not respond to those messages. If you do accept one of these calls, do not engage the caller. Simply hang up.

 An advertisement for Jozach Jewelers. The background is dark with a woman's face in the lower left corner. The main focus is a gold necklace with three concentric circles and a matching pair of earrings. The text reads:

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The application period is now open for 2018.
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Studio 13:13 Visual Arts April Offerings

NEWPORT, NH--Studio 13:13 is a non-profit art reach of the First Baptist Church in Newport, NH, located at 85 North Main Street. It is a functional, visual arts studio with plenty of lighting, easels, tables, safe drying racks, and ample room to work. It is facilitated and managed by Ernie Perry. Perry has been a public school art teacher for the past 18 years. He has led various camps, workshops, and community classes along with completing commissioned pieces for well over 25 years. Since 2012, the FBC has been offering various art classes in the studio space, but based on the amount of artists taking these classes and the enthusiasm demonstrated, the FBC has generously offered to expand the occasional workshops into an ongoing studio space that can afford community members a place to get together to create their art. This is what has become Studio 13:13.

Information can be found at studio1313.weebly.com.

Open Studio on Sunday, April 8, 5-8pm, ages 12 to adult. This is a chance to get together to share, critique, and/or just work together on our own art projects. Bring your drawings, paintings, knitting or whatever you are working on and try working with us. There is NO charge for this artistic evening out. Questions can be answered at studio1313arts@gmail.com or by calling (603) 863-3235.

Handmade Accordion and Map Books on Sunday, April 15, 5-8pm, ages 12 to adult, \$10 per participant. Examples will be share and instruction given in the construction of handmade accordion and maze style books. The price of the class will include the materials to complete two books. More books can be purchased for an additional fee. No prior experience needed. Space is limited to 10 participants, please RSVP by April 8 to studio1313arts@gmail.com or by calling (603) 863-3235.

Handmade Star Books is a two-Sunday class, April 22 and 29, 5-8pm, ages 12 to adult, \$20 per participant. Examples will be shared and instruction will be given in the construction of handmade star books. The price of the class will include materials needed to complete one book per participant. No prior experience needed. Space is limited to 10, please RSVP by April 8 to studio1313arts@gmail.com or by calling (603) 863-3235.

Send us your news and photos

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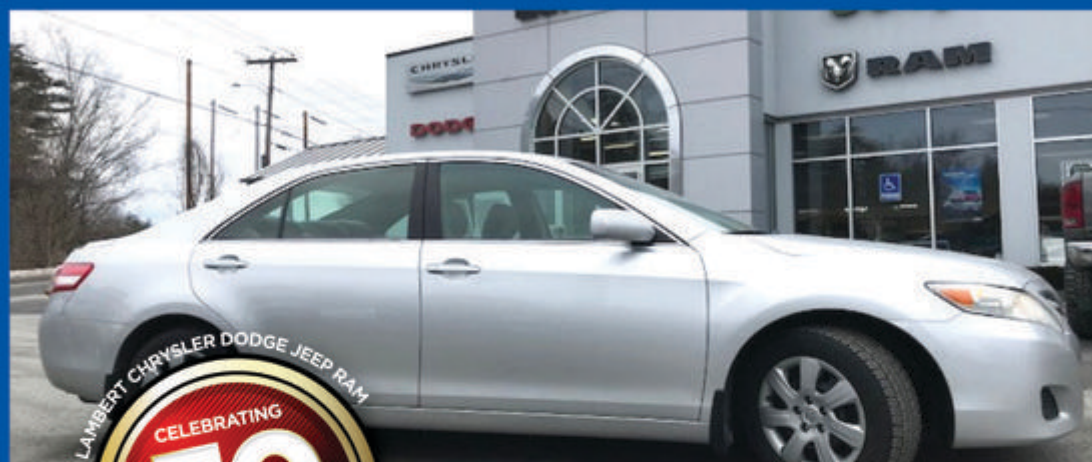
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Day Two:

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To register or learn more, email Shannon.L.Boisvert@Hitchcock.org



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Should You Make Extra Mortgage Payments or Boost Your Investments?

Every month, you pay your mortgage. And, depending on your circumstances, you may be able to afford to put in additional payments – perhaps sizable ones. But should you? Or, if you really have the extra money, should you invest it?

Initially, you might think it would be quite nice to rid yourself of that mortgage sooner, rather than later. But is it really the burden it seems?

Actually, you get some real benefits from a mortgage. It certainly provides something of great value to you – your home. If you got your mortgage – or refinanced your home – within the past decade or so, you are borrowing money at a pretty favorable interest rate, by historical standards. And even assuming a mild rate of inflation, such as we've had for the past several years, you'll essentially be paying off your mortgage with cheaper and cheaper dollars over time. Plus, your interest payments may well be tax deductible. (The new tax laws limit deductions on new mortgages of \$750,000 or more. For questions on your specific situation, consult your tax professional.)

So, given these advantages, an argument could be made that you should be in no hurry to pay off your mortgage. Still, you might be tempted to make the extra payments because you'll be building home equity. After all, isn't this equity valuable? It is – to a degree. The larger your home equity, the more money you'll get to keep when you eventually sell your home.

But in the meantime, that home equity may be less useful than you might imagine. For one thing, just building more equity won't make your home more valuable – it will rise (or fall) in value along with whatever's happening in the housing market. By contrast, you could take the extra money and buy more shares in an investment such as stocks – and the more shares you own, the more valuable your investment will be if the price per share rises.

Also, if you were to experience a temporary job loss or some other financial emergency, your home equity might not help you much; if you're not working, you could even have trouble getting a home equity loan. Conversely, your investment portfolio can offer you greater liquidity, depending on your specific investments. Most investment vehicles, such as stocks and bonds, generally can be sold quickly, without much difficulty. (Keep in mind, though, that if you were forced to sell investments when their price was down, you could take a loss on the sale.)

Clearly, you could gain some advantages by using any extra money to invest, rather than paying down your mortgage. Nonetheless, you may simply get emotional and psychological satisfaction by speeding your progress toward the day when your house is paid off – and that type of satisfaction certainly has value. You'll need to weigh these intangible factors carefully in deciding whether to increase your investments or make extra mortgage payments – because, ultimately, you need to feel that you're doing the right thing, for the right reasons.

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



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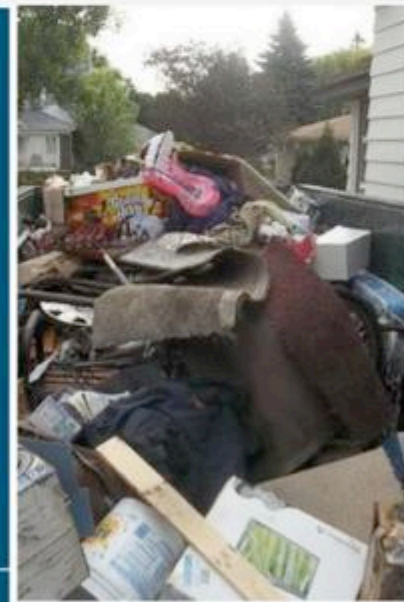
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It's About Food

By Johnny Navillus



In General

Omaha Mitch has his yearly supply of NH Maple Syrup so all is right in Omaha. Peace prevails.

Now that Spring is here (kinda), start thinking about the grill. Try building your burgers with shredded cheese. Stretch the meat out using Italian flavored bread crumbs. Guido does and his burgers are awesome. Speaking of my brother, don't store your ketchup in the fridge. It only makes for colder food. Check the label. It doesn't have to be refrigerated after opening. Mustard is another matter. Check the label. Even if you've been using something for decades. Just because your mother did it you don't have to.

Think about what you put down your garbage disposal. Things like pasta, potato peels, fibrous vegetables and rice. These things can wrap themselves around the blades or form a sticky blockage in your drain. I hadn't thought about the rice and pasta until recently. I know about egg shells from personal experience, but the rice was a surprise. It does make sense. Of course, no one puts coffee grounds down their disposal.

Is there a better glaze for ham than Maple Syrup? That's why we have pastry brushes. And you thought they were for pastry.

It doesn't take much to put out a restaurant quality dish. Take some asparagus, put them in some hot oil in a skillet, sprinkle some sesame seeds around and sprinkle some grated cheese over it all and once the cheese melts, serve. It looks like it just came out of a professional kitchen. Be sure you look exhausted from all that fancy work. Just a couple of extra seconds and you have an impressive side dish. Presentation counts.

The same goes for rice. Stir in a little grated cheese just before serving. Or some cashews. The point is these touches aren't expected in your average home. So why should you be average. Let your imagination run wild. You have nothing to lose.

That box of stuffing you have on the shelf makes for a different meal. It takes no time at all and just the change from potatoes or rice makes the whole meal seem different.

Stuffing? Throw in some dried cranberries or raisins or both and a splash or two of Maple Syrup. I'm sure you can come up with something. How about some bacon bits? Stuffing isn't just for Thanksgiving. A company out there is betting on it.

It's all about using your imagination and treating your family like guests. Don't they deserve it? Just a few extra seconds and you look like a hero. It will pay off. Trust me.

Play with your food. The best cooks do.

Write to Johnny at etickernews@gmail.com.

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Former City Councilor to Receive the Good Scout Award

Former Claremont City Councilor and current School Board member, Carolyn Towle, will be honored by the Daniel Webster Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) on April 11th at a luncheon at noon at the Common Man. In recognition of her many years of service to the community while exemplifying Scouting values, she will be presented with the Greater Claremont Good Scout Award. This is an excellent opportunity to not only congratulate a member of our community for her contributions, but also learn how BSA is impacting our youth.

As a mother of four children and a long time mentor in 4H, Carolyn understands the importance of working with youth to develop character. For over 30 years she was a 4H horsemanship leader, and is noted for taking the first team from Sullivan County to the NH State Fair to compete in stable management. As a result of her leadership, the team placed first with a perfect score of 100 points.

As a Claremont resident, Carolyn also understands the importance of civic engagement. Despite being a senior citizen, a full-time employee and a heart transplant recipient, she has dedicated much of her spare time to her community. While a City Councilor, she served on numerous boards to include the Zoning Board of Adjustment, Parks and Recreation Committee and Ad Hoc Committee for the Claremont Amtrak Station. She also volunteered at numerous community events, always willing to help wherever needed. Most recently, she ran for a one year position on the Claremont School Board and won the seat.

Her commitment to character building and civic engagement are attributes reflected in the BSA's mission statement. It is an organization dedicated to helping youth become responsible, engaged and productive members of our society. For over 100 years, they have helped build future leaders through a combination of educational activities and lifelong values with fun.

Given the changes that the organization has undergone in the 21st century, this is not necessarily the organization that you once knew. Now, there are programs available to both boys and girls that go well beyond the traditional pathways of scouting. Today, there are programs for youth and young adults (up to age 20) that also include venturing, sea scouting and exploring. These are programs designed to give participants opportunities to challenge themselves and develop new skill sets that will help prepare them for success as citizens, students, athletes, and members of the workforce. For more information on scouting in NH, please go to www.nhscouting.org.

Please join me at noon on April 11th at the Common Man as we honor Carolyn Towle for her work with our youth and her contributions to this community. Sponsorships and tickets are available by contacting Greg Anthony via email at greg.anthony@scouting.org or phone at 603-625-6431. Monies received will be used to support scouting in our area.

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

Let's Chat about Community Conservation Needs

Bring your voice to the table. Sullivan and Cheshire County Conservation Districts are hosting a Community Conversation supper event for community members of all backgrounds to share your stories and discuss conservation issues that matter to you. Date: Monday, April 23, from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Student Conservation Association, 689 River Road, Charlestown.

The time together will include a light dinner and the

opportunity for respectful conversation through guided activities. Purpose is to better understand the conservation needs in Sullivan and Cheshire counties and use that to discuss goals and support county-wide conservation initiatives.

This conversation is open to all Sullivan and Cheshire County residents. Please share widely and RSVP to join this event.

Contacts: Amanda Littleton, Cheshire County Conservation District, (603)756-2988; Dawn Dextraze, Sullivan County Conservation District, (603) 542-4891.

Location: SCA Headquarters - building near the northernmost entrance across from the small parking lot in the "Great Room" upstairs. There is more parking at the southernmost entrance.

Send news and photos to etickernews@gmail.com



Kindergarten Registration Claremont School District April 2-20, 2018 April 30-May 4, 2018

Any child who is **five (5) on or before September 30, 2018** and who resides in Claremont may register for Claremont School District's 2018-19 Kindergarten classes. Registration will be held from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM at the elementary school your child will attend. Evening registration will be held at the following times:

Bluff School	May 2	from 6:00-7:00 pm
Disnard School	May 2	from 6:00-7:00 pm
Maple Ave. School	May 1	from 6:00-7:00 pm

To register, please bring your child's birth certificate and proof of residency to your neighborhood school. If you are not sure in which school area you live or have any questions, call the Superintendent's Office at 543-4200 for information.

The Partners in Health Family Council
invites you to a

MEDICAID Seminar

Monday, April 9th 2018
5:30pm-7:00pm

➔ Come learn about Children's Medicaid
with D'Arcy Svendsen, Claremont District
Office Supervisor

**Sugar River Valley Regional
Technical Center, Room 161
111 South Street Claremont, NH**

➔ Get your questions answered about the
programs available and the application
process



SPACE IS LIMITED! Please register for free at:
<https://medicaid-seminar.eventbrite.com>



Questions?

Contact Kara MacDonald at (603)518-4358



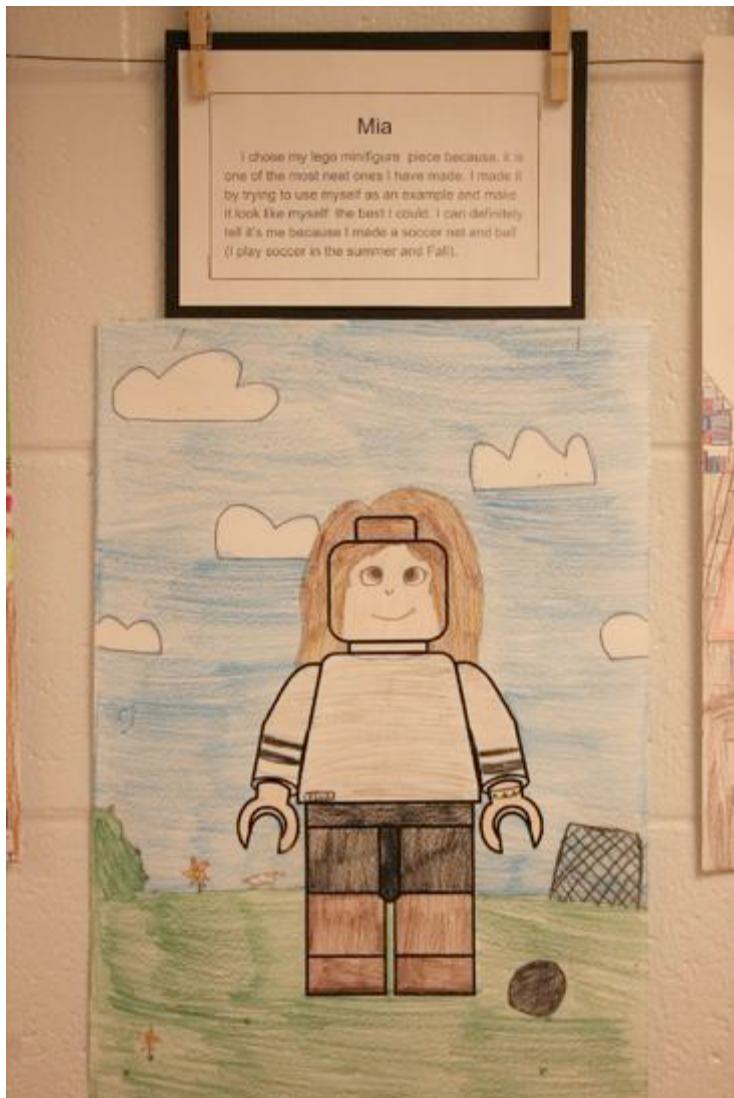
The Stevens High Key Club filled 70 Easter Baskets for seniors at the Sullivan County Nursing Home, Silver Maples, and the Earl Bourdon Center this past week. The baskets contained fruit, sugar-free candy, books and a handwritten card from the Key Club students.



There was a long line outside the Claremont Soup Kitchen on Thursday, March 29, as kids and families waited to have Easter dinner and meet up with the Easter Bunny. Well over 150 people enjoyed the meal, and the kids had their pictures taken with the Bunny and received an Easter Basket filled with donated toys and other small gifts. Pictured: Cheyanne Hoy enjoyed visiting with the Easter Bunny.



Photos by Bill Binder



To celebrate Youth Art Month, Maple Avenue School art teacher Sue Tuttle held her second Art Display and Family Paint Show last week. The show was held on three nights to be able to highlight all the grades at Maple. Parents could walk around the school and see the art done by the students displayed on the corridor walls and then meet in the gym to enjoy a night of family painting. Photos: Art Teacher Sue Tuttle visits with a family painting their pictures; student art.

Photos by Bill Binder