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April 11, 2016

Arbitrator Rules In Favor Of SREA Over Block Scheduling Again

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--On Tuesday, Tammy Yates, president of the Sugar River Education Association (SREA), released the following state regarding a ruling over A/B block scheduling.

"Yesterday we received the decision from Arbitrator Gary Altman providing us with the remedy for the A/B block schedule that the District implemented in violation of our collective bargaining agreement. The award is as follows:

'As stated in the first Arbitration Decision dated June 29, 2015, the School Board violated the Agreement and the Side Agreements attached to the parties' Collective Bargaining Agreement. As a remedy, the School District must revert back to the prior block schedule previously agreed upon by the parties. This must occur for the 2016-2017 school year. In addition, because of the additional instructional time required by the change in the schedule, Stevens High School teachers must be paid an additional 8% of their salary for this increased teaching workload.'

Yates went on to say that "We want to be clear that there were multiple opportunities for the District to have avoided this outcome. When the teachers at the high school twice voted against the change in schedule, the District could have worked with the SREA to develop a schedule that the teachers believed would be beneficial to the students. The District decided to move forward with the A/B block schedule anyway.



The Claremont Kiwanis Club held its 16th annual auction on Saturday at the CCTV studio. Over \$22,000 worth of goods and services were donated to the cause, which raises funds for children's charities (Bill Binder photo).

"When we received the arbitrator's decision in June confirming that the A/B schedule violated our collective bargaining agreement, the District could have reverted back to the old schedule to remain in compliance with the agreement. We again indicated that we would work with the administration to develop a schedule that would best serve the students' needs. Again, the District chose to ignore the arbitration decision and move forward with the new schedule.

"The New Hampshire Public Employee Labor Relations Board issued an order sending the SREA and District back to the arbitrator to determine what an appropriate remedy would

be for the contract violation. If the District had chosen to follow the contract this step would not have been necessary.

"On several occasions over the years, the SREA has agreed to change or adjust the high school schedule through a mutual agreement with the District. The original block schedule was developed and agreed to in just that manner. The arbitrator's decision returns Steven High School next year to the schedule already agreed upon by the parties in their contract, and compensates teachers for the increased workload in the current school year," said Yates.

(Continued on page A2)

Arbitrator, from A1

Claremont School Board chair Brian Rapp told the *e-Ticker News* that “The current schedule is what’s best for our students and the time it’s been in use has shown that. Unfortunately the arbitrator ignored past rulings that show that setting the schedule sits firmly with the Board. The Board will have to decide whether or not to abdicate that responsibility. As far as impact bargaining was concerned, I’m very pleased with the ruling. The union had demanded a 30% raise and the Board offered 2%. The arbitrator’s award of 8% is obviously much closer to the board’s offer and I feel it is reasonable. Nevertheless, the board will continue to push for positive change to prepare our students for their futures.”

The A/B schedule has students taking classes for certain studies on alternating days for the full year rather than four subjects each day for a semester. A committee approved the change; the committee included members of the faculty.

Former school board chair Richard Seaman said last fall that he and the board believed

that scheduling fell under its umbrella of responsibilities per state law.

In a Facebook post, board member Chris Irish wrote, “This is not a teacher pay issue for me. The root of the disagreement is who gets to set the schedule. Period. That’s what it has been about since the beginning. And the NH Supreme Court has ruled that the scheduling rests with the Board and Administration. And as Brian Rapp has mentioned, I, too, have had many teachers, parents, and students tell me that the new schedule is working...”

The school board did not discuss the ruling or its implications publicly at Wednesday night’s meeting.

Herman Appearance Cancelled

CLAREMONT, NH--Due to personal circumstances beyond Eric Herman’s control, the performance scheduled at the Fiske Free Library for Monday, April 11, at 4:00 p.m. has been cancelled. There will be no make-up program.



A serious accident involving two cars on Thursday at the corner of South and Chestnut Streets in Claremont sent two people to the hospital (Phyllis A. Muzeroll photo).

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Commentary

NH House Happenings

By Rep. John Cloutier



School Employee Background Checks Bill Clears Final Hurdles

Sometimes the legislative process in New Hampshire's House of Representatives and Senate is slow, frustrating, and full of unexpected surprises.

I've been again reminded of this observation during the present House term because of my experience with House Bill 346 and Senate Bill 152. Both bills were introduced last year. Both sought to provide public school officials more information about prospective school employees and volunteers through their employee background checks before they were hired.

The first bill was sponsored by all four of Claremont's state representatives with Rep. Andrew O'Hearne, who is also a Claremont Police Officer as the prime or lead sponsor. It would have allowed school officials to determine from the background checks for paid or unpaid positions whether any of them were convicted of any felonies as well as misdemeanors. Under current New Hampshire law, school officials are only able to determine from such checks whether prospective employees or volunteers have been convicted of certain crimes, including a specific range of only 18 felonies including murder, sexual assault, and child pornography.

Reps. O'Hearne, Larry Converse, Raymond Gagnon, and I had sponsored House Bill 346 in response to an unfortunate event that occurred at Stevens High School in 2014 in which a former Stevens math teacher was convicted after being arrested and fired for sexually assaulting one of his underage students. Afterwards, Claremont School Superintendent Middleton McGoodwin stated that he would have never hired this former teacher if he known about the teacher's previous felony and misdemeanor convictions which included a federal felony conviction of selling stolen night vision goggles and laser equipment as well as a New Hampshire misdemeanor conviction of simple assault, convictions which did not have to be disclosed on the teacher's criminal background check.

House Bill 346 was publicly heard by the House Education Committee on Jan. 28, 2015. The bill was unanimously recommended for approval by the Education Committee on Feb. 28 after a clarifying amendment was added by the committee with Rep. O'Hearne's help. It was then adopted by a voice vote of the full House on March 11 and sent to the Senate for its consideration.

However, the expected passage of this worthwhile legislation then ran into problems. House Bill 346 was publicly heard by the Senate Education Committee on April 1, 2015, and the committee unanimously recommended the bill for approval on May 7. But on May 14 the full Senate on a motion by Keene Sen. Molly Kelly decided to re-refer the bill back to the Education Committee for further review. I later learned that Sen. Kelly moved to have the measure re-referred because of concerns from teachers' unions that the legislation could violate the privacy of in-

dividuals applying for school positions, whether they were hired or not, violate privacy because their criminal background check information could stay in school officials' files forever, concerns which had never previously been voiced to us sponsors or the rest of the House.

The Senate Education Committee held a second public hearing on House Bill 346 on Sept. 22, 2015, and on Oct. 14 reversed itself, this time voting to unanimously reject the legislation. This rejection was later endorsed by the full Senate by voice vote on Jan. 6, 2016.

Nevertheless, the concept of providing school officials with more information about prospective employees on their criminal background checks was still alive in the form of Senate Bill 152. Sponsored by a bipartisan group of lawmakers led by Hooksett Sen. David Boutin, this bill had survived months of scrutiny by the same Education Committee in 2015. On Feb. 4, 2016, an amended version of the bill was adopted by a simple voice vote of the full Senate, and sent to the House. Senate Bill 152 as amended was similar to House Bill 346 with the exception of one important provision. This provision required that criminal background information used in hiring decisions involving prospective candidates be destroyed by school officials within 30 days of receiving such information. This provision helped alleviate previous concerns by teachers' unions about the possible violation of individuals' privacy, concerns that defeated House Bill 346 and helped clear the way for Senate Bill 152's adoption by the full Senate.

After arriving in the House, Senate Bill 152 was publicly heard by the House Education Committee on March 15. Next, on March 20 the Education Committee recommended the bill for approval by an overwhelming majority vote, despite some concerns by a few opponents that the bill's provisions should apply to non-public schools as well. Finally, on April 6 the full House passed the bill by a strong voice vote with three Claremont citizens watching in the House Visitors' Gallery. They included the mother of the victimized Stevens High School student, Superintendent McGoodwin, and Claremont Mayor Charlene Lovett, who had all worked hard to pass Senate Bill 152 and previously House Bill 346. This hard work included testifying at all the Senate and House hearings on both bills.

However, immediately following the House vote, there occurred another unexpected surprise in Senate Bill 152's march towards becoming law for the three Claremonters in the Gallery and us representatives. House Speaker Shawn Jasper announced that he was referring the bill to the House Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee for further review of its criminal penalty provisions, a review that could delay the march towards becoming law for up to a month. The Speaker's referral was surprising in that last year he had not referred House Bill 346 to the same committee it had passed the House. He couldn't tell either Rep. Gagnon or me afterwards his reason for treating both bills differently.

Nevertheless, on April 7, Criminal Justice Committee Chair and Dalton Rep. John Tholl waived review of Senate Bill 152, declaring that there are no new criminal penalties in it for his committee to examine. So, this fortunate action by Rep. Tholl means that worthwhile legislation benefiting our state's children should be on its way to Gov. Maggie Hassan's desk within two weeks.

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County, please visit**

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Letter To The Editor

Likes Vietnam Veterans’ Day Column

To The Editor:

Excellent coverage, and, article written by Les in the 4/4 Claremont Confidential regarding the Vietnam Veterans’ “day” at the WRJ VA. For no one, except their “representatives”, from Federal or State held governmental positions to show up was a disgrace and a disrespect to all Vietnam Veterans. And we wonder why the State and Federal government’s are, at best, “interested” in our plight. I, for one, have carried a burden (and have so for 49 years) over that “mission”.

To be “honored” for such a disastrous US Government decision so long ago is just, to me, pacification. Like saying “Happy Veteran’s Day” to a vet. Nothing happy, to me anyway, about it. If the powers that be are just pacifying us Vietnam Vets because of the due honors to all Iraq/Afghanistan veterans..shame on them !!! The best way to honor ALL Vets is for the Dept. of Veteran Affairs to get their act together (head out their....) and “fix” the health care problems going on all over our country. I am a user of the Phoenix VA healthcare system and, by now, I am sure a majority of veterans are aware of the issues that have going on here for the last five years or so. And this is happening all over the country to one degree or another. I don’t need a “thank you”, a pat on the back or whatever. Just some decent healthcare. We Vietnam Vets are a dying breed, just like the WW II and Korean Vets before us. Help us with quality care, and with getting that care without having to beg, jump through hoops or whatever. For the record Les, I, too, think of Gary Whipple a lot. Probably too often. I think of the 58,000 + that lost their lives, and I think of the other countless thousands of lives that were affected by their service to their country in Vietnam. “Semper Fi” to all...“Welcome Home” and get what you are truly deserving of...not just hollow accolades.

P.S. Yes, I am still bitter.

Jeff Blewitt
Gold Canyon, AZ

Senate Passes Ayotte Airport Security Amendment

WASHINGTON, DC--During debate on legislation to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the U.S. Senate Thursday approved an amendment that U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte helped introduce to strengthen airport security. Ayotte introduced the amendment with Senators John Thune (R-SD), Bill Nelson (D-FL), and Maria Cantwell (D-WA), and it includes provisions from their standalone legislation, the Airport Security Enhancement and Oversight Act. Ayotte is a member of the Commerce Committee and Chair of the Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security.

Highlights of the amendment include:

- Strengthening airport employee screening process: Based on the senators’ standalone legislation, this provision would enhance requirements and vetting for airport employees, expand the use of random and physical inspections of airport employees in secure areas, and require a review of perimeter security.
- Safeguarding passengers in non-secure airport areas: Following the attacks in non-secured areas of the Brussels airport, this provision would seek to reduce crowds waiting for security screenings by vetting passengers before they arrive and expanding the TSA PreCheck program.
- Securing international flights bound for the US: This provision would expand information sharing between the US and other countries to better equip those countries with security tools and equipment on direct flights to the US. It would also require a security risk assessment of all airports with nonstop flights into the US, and consider terrorism-related factors and the extent to which the foreign government of the country in which that airport is located shares passenger name records.

“In light of growing security threats to our nation and American travelers, I’m pleased the Senate today overwhelmingly passed our amendment to strengthen airport security,” said Ayotte.

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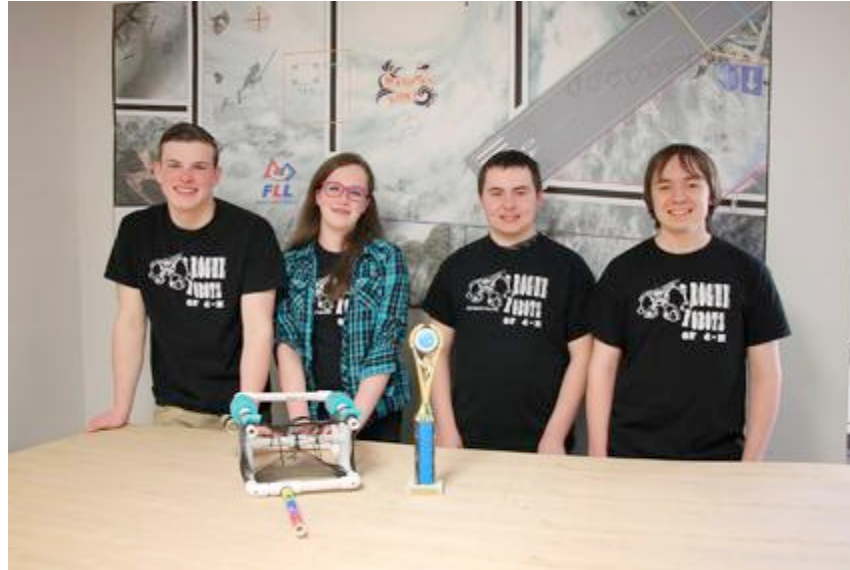
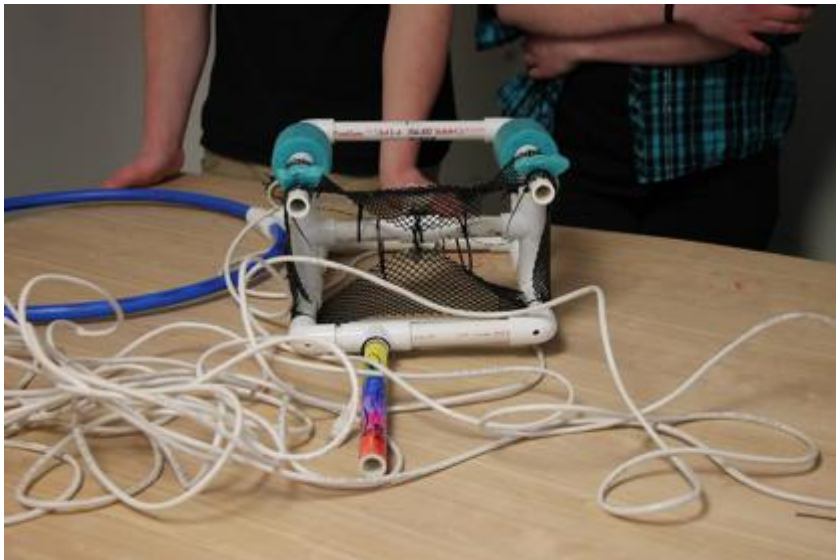
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Rogue Robots Take 2nd Place In SeaPerch Competition; Invited To Compete In LA



Left: The underwater robot; right: Team consisting of Matt Page, Alison Numme, Stephen Bosonac, Andrew Friend (Bill Binder photos).

By Bill Binder
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--The Rogue Robots of 4-H recently sent three teams to the Regional SeaPerch Competition. The event was held at UNH, and over 45 teams from the New England States competed. The high school four-person Rogue Robots team won 2nd best overall and received an invitation to compete at the 2016 National SeaPerch Competition held in Baton Rouge, LA, in May.

The Rogue Robots is a 501c3 non-profit Sullivan County, NH 4-H Club that focuses on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) projects for children ages 9 to 18.

For the past three years members have built underwater robots to compete in the New England Regional SeaPerch Competition at the University of New Hampshire. SeaPerch is an innovative underwater robotics program that equips mentors and students with the re-

sources they need to build an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) from a kit comprised of low-cost, easily accessible parts, following a curriculum that teaches basic engineering and science concepts with a marine engineering theme. Two of the teen competitors, Stephen Bosonac and Andrew Friend, attend Stevens High School in Claremont; Alison Numme is a home school student who also takes classes at Stevens; and Matt Page is a full-time home school student.

The students are looking for support to make

the trip to Louisiana. They are accepting donations through a GoFundMe page. All donations are greatly appreciated.

The four Rogue Robots teens and their two mentors need approximately \$4,000 to cover travel, accommodations, meals, and other costs to participate in the National SeaPerch Competition. Any additional funds raised will go into the Rogue Robots of 4-H Club general fund to cover valuable, future STEM

projects such as SeaPerch, FIRST Lego League, and FIRST Robotics Competitions.

To donate, go to:

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School District To Receive \$110,000 Rebate Check

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--Superintendent of Schools Middleton McGoodwin announced at the Claremont School Board meeting Wednesday night that the district will be receiving a rebate check for \$110,000 as a result of upgrading the heating systems at the high school and middle school with biomass technology. Michael O'Neill, director of Business and Finance for the SAU 6, received a letter from the Public Utilities Commission dated April 4 conveying the good news. In it, Barbara Berstein, of the Sustainable Energy Division, told the district, "Thank you for submitting the Claremont Middle School and Claremont High School Step 2 applications for the non-residential bulk-fuel fed wood-pellet central boilers and furnaces rebate program. I am pleased to report that both applications have been approved, and a rebate check from the State will be issued and mailed to you within the next seven to ten work days.

"I congratulate you for taking advantage of this innovative rebate program and for choosing to use clean, sustainable, biomass energy to help meet your schools' demand for energy. The school district's commitment to clean energy will aid the State in meeting its energy and environmental goals, including:

The 25 x '25 initiative to increase the use of renewable energy to 25% of the state's total energy usage by 2025; and,

The Climate Change Action Plan, which calls for the use of renewable energy and other measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

"It is my hope and expectation that the Claremont School District's example will inspire other schools to consider renewable energy options, and that ultimately thousands of New Hampshire schools, businesses and residences will meet their domestic energy needs with biomass resources and other clean energy technologies," said Berstein.

"Thank you for doing your part to secure a clean energy future for New Hampshire."

McGoodwin told the board, "That amount of money is the result of the renovation project, the planning that went into that project, and now we are receiving a monetary return for the investment."

Salt Hill Pub To Donate Dinner Proceeds To TPN

NEWPORT, NH--Have dinner at Salt Hill Pub in Newport on April 14th! Proceeds will be donated to TPN to support victims and survivors

of domestic, sexual and stalking violence.

"Thank you to Salt Hill Pub for sponsoring Turning Points Network's 10th annual Steppin' Up to End Violence 5K Walk & Fun Run," said TPN Executive Director Deb Mozden.



Embellishing Your Resume

Résumé padding (doesn't that euphemism sound a lot less consequential than "falsifying?") seems to be a widespread problem. In fact, there are deceitful services out there – which shall remain unnamed – that offer counterfeit degrees and provide bogus virtual companies to add on résumés that will even supply fake job references when called. Sigh.

A recent [CareerBuilder survey](#) found job seekers' most common résumé lies:

- Embellished skill sets – 62%
- Embellished responsibilities – 54%
- Dates of employment – 39%
- Job titles – 31%
- Academic degrees – 28%

Just because 62% of people fudged about their skill sets, doesn't mean you should too. More than half of employers (56% to be exact) uncovered the résumé lies. Education credentials are easily checked. Dates of employment and job titles can be verified by previous employers. When interviewing for a specialized position, you may be asked technical questions that will show you're obviously not qualified. (I heard of an instance where the candidate looked up answers on his smartphone!) Why waste your time and the interviewers'?

If you do manage to hornswoggle a company into hiring you, what happens when your deceptions are discovered? While you may root for Mike Ross on TV's *Suits* who faked his way into a law firm position without the Harvard degree, in real life it could cost you the job. Where safety is a factor (claiming you are certified to operate a forklift, for instance, or have the necessary medical training for a healthcare position), your falsehood could have disastrous consequences for others.

A better way to move up in the world is to take classes in areas in which you need to gain proficiency. Then proudly list those courses on your résumé under "Education" to show prospective employers you proactively focus on career development.



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If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Amanda at (603)543-0155 or Amanda@TurningPointsNetwork.org

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We also archive past issues of the e-Ticker News on our website.

Sullivan County Grand Jury Indictments Released

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

NEWPORT, NH--The following Sullivan County Grand Jury indictments were released last week:

Dayshon T. Miles, 30, 103 County Farm Road, Unity, NH, indicted for Possession of Controlled Drug/Five grams or more-Intent to Sell/Distribute-Subsequent Offense (Crack Cocaine), Jan. 12, 2016.

Pedro Rodriguez, 35, Concord, NH, indicted for Sale of Controlled Drug, One Gram or More/Subsequent Offense (Heroin) 1,000 feet of a school, Nov. 5, 2015; Possession of Controlled Drug-Intent to Sell/Distribute greater than five grams-Subsequent Offense (Crack Cocaine), Nov. 6, 2015; Possession of Controlled Drug-Intent to Sell/Distribute five grams or More-Subsequent Offense (Heroin), Nov. 6, 2015.

Brent Avery, 45, Newport, NH, indicted for Possession of Controlled Drug (Lorazepam), on or between Sept. 9 and 10, 2015; Possession of Controlled Drug (Chlordiazepoxide), on or between Sept. 9 and 10, 2015; Possession of Controlled Drug (Anabolic Steroid), on or between Sept. 9 and 10, 2015.

Daniel Towle, 25, 103 County Farm Road, Unity, NH, indicted for Possession of Controlled Drug-Intent to Sell/Distribute (Cocaine); Offense Committed While on Release, March 25, 2016; Conspiracy-Sale of Controlled Drug/Subsequent Offense (cocaine); Offense While on Release, March 25, 2016.

Angela Rook, 50, Georges Mills, NH, indicted for Burglary, on or between Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, 2015.

Kim Smith, 51, Hartland, VT, indicted for Theft by Unauthorized Taking, on or between August 31, 2015, and Nov. 19, 2015.

David Hanson, 27, Claremont, NH, indicted for Forgery, Sept. 16, 2015; Forgery, Sept. 18, 2015.

Sarah Carr, 35, Claremont, NH, indicted for Welfare Fraud, between August 25, 2010, and Sept. 30, 2010; Welfare Fraud, between August 25, 2010, and Sept. 30, 2010.

Justin Vire, 36, Claremont, NH, indicted for Welfare Fraud, between July 1, 2015 and Nov. 23, 2015; Welfare Fraud, between Sept. 29, 2015, and Nov. 30, 2015.

Amanda Rhoades, 33, Claremont, NH, indicted for Welfare Fraud, Oct. 2, 2015.

Timi Duguay, 48, Colebrook, NH, indicted for Welfare Fraud, between Oct. 14, 2010, and March 9, 2011, Welfare Fraud, between Dec. 1, 2011, and Oct. 9, 2012.

Andrew A. Darling, 53, North Walpole, NH, indicted for POCS- pentadrone, Aug. 22, 2015; Possession of alpha-PHP (Controlled Drug), Aug. 22, 2015.

Christopher Chico, 28, Chester, VT, indicted for Possession of Heroin (Controlled Drug), Dec. 21, 2015, Falsifying Physical Evidence, Dec. 21, 2015.

Bobbi Jo Menard, 40, Goshen, NH, indicted for Attempted Theft by Unauthorized taking/Intent to Resell, between Dec. 26, 2015, and Dec. 31, 2015; Attempted Theft by Unauthorized taking/Intent to Resell, between Jan. 1, 2016, and Jan. 21, 2016; Possession of Hydrocodone (Controlled Drug), Jan. 21, 2016.

Jeremiah Menard, 40, Goshen, NH, indicted for Attempted Theft by Unauthorized taking/Intent to Resell, between Dec. 26, 2015, and Dec. 31, 2015; Attempted Theft by Unauthorized taking/Intent to Resell, Jan. 1, 2016, and Jan. 21, 2016; Resisting Arrest, Jan. 21, 2016.

Joshua Wood, 35, Newport, NH, indicted for Reckless Conduct Deadly Weapon (vehicle), Feb. 8, 2016; Aggravated DWI, Feb. 8, 2016; Aggravated Second, Feb. 8, 2016.

Anthony Ouellette, 32, Claremont, NH, indicted for Possession of Fentanyl, Jan. 17, 2016.

Dennis Obrian, 52, Manchester, NH, indicted for Sale of Heroin, More than 5 Grams Subsequent Offense, April 1-2, 2015; Conspiracy Sale of Heroin, More than 5 Grams Subsequent Offense, April 1-2, 2015.

Louis Gratacos, III, 19, Claremont, NH, indicted for Second Degree Assault by means of a deadly weapon, to wit: attempting to outrun law enforcement, operating a motor vehicle at high speed, failing to maintain control of said vehicle, striking a residence and causing bodily injury to passenger in his car, Dec. 28, 2015; Reckless Conduct Deadly Weapon, Dec. 28, 2015; Reckless Conduct Deadly Weapon, engaged in conduct which placed or may place another in danger of serious bodily injury, motor vehicle as being used, being a deadly weapon, March 22, 2016.

Derek Basler, 33, Charlestown, NH, indicted for Habitual Offender, Dec. 31, 2015; Derek Basler, 33, Newport, NH, Aggravated Second, Dec. 31, 2015.

Christopher Blanchard, 30, Newport, NH, indicted for Habitual Offender, Jan. 21, 2016; DWI, Jan. 21, 2016.

Dana Hathaway, 19, Goshen, NH, indicted for Criminal Threatening by Threatening to Commit a Crime, Deadly Weapon, Jan. 30, 2016; Criminal Threatening by Physical Conduct, Deadly Weapon, Jan. 30, 2016.

Daniel Chick, 47, 103 County Farm Road, Unity, NH, indicted for Assault by Prisoner, Jan. 19, 2016.

Daniel Spaulding, 29, 103 County Farm Road, Unity, NH, indicted for Assault by Prisoner, Jan. 19, 2016.

Anthony Lantas, 33, 103 County Farm Road, Unity, NH, indicted for Assault by Prisoner, Jan. 19, 2016.

Lawrence Daniels, 27, 103 County Farm Road, Unity, NH, indicted for Assault by Prisoner, Jan. 19, 2016.

Ashley Merrill aka Ashley Stoodley, 26, North Haverhill, NH, indicted for Possession of Controlled Drug-Intent to Sell/Distribute 5 Grams or More-Subsequent Offense (Heroin), Nov. 6, 2015.

Rahman A. Brown, 35, Claremont, NH, indicted for First Degree Assault, Jan. 17, 2016; Attempted Murder, Jan. 19, 2016; First Degree Assault, Jan. 19, 2016.

Willie Taylor, 42, 103 County Farm Road, Unity, NH, indicted for Sale Crack Cocaine-Subsequent, Nov. 18, 2015, Sale Crack Cocaine-Subsequent, Oct. 21, 2015.

Bruce D. Brown, 26, Claremont, NH, indicted for Theft of Firearm, about Jan. 19-20, 2016; Conspiracy/Theft of Firearm, about Jan. 19-20, 2016; Theft by Unauthorized Taking/Accomplice, about Jan. 15-25, 2016.

Tyler Erickson, 22, Claremont, NH, indicted for Theft by Unauthorized Taking/Accomplice, about Jan. 15-25, 2016; Conspiracy of Theft of Firearm, about Jan. 19-20, 2016.

SHS Class of '71 Meeting

CLAREMONT, NH--Stevens High School class of 1971 meeting April 13 at 7:00 p.m. Lavalley's Claremont Building Supply. Please use the Pleasant St. entrance.

Details Released On Springfield Stabbing Case

SPRINGFIELD, VT--On April 6, at approximately 1427 hours the Springfield Police Department received a call that at 3 Wall Street in Springfield there was a female outside covered in blood who had possibly been assaulted. Responding officers learned that the female suffered a stab wound to her abdomen. The female was transported to the Springfield Hospital and then was later transferred to the Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital for treatment. The victim had identified her assailant as a Brian Butler. A search was conducted of the area and Brian Butler was taken into custody in front of Village Pizza on Main Street in Springfield at approximately 3:55 P.M.

Butler remains in custody and was scheduled for arraignment on April 7, in the Windsor Superior Court, Criminal Division, to answer the charges of Attempted Second Degree Murder, Aggravated Domestic Assault, and Violation of Conditions of Release.



Heavy rains last week washed out a portion of a culvert under Ferry Landing Road in Claremont just around the turn at the bottom of the hill (Bill Binder photo).



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Claremont Soccer Program Gets New Board

By Les St.Pierre
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--The Claremont Youth Soccer Association (CYSA) has a new board of directors heading into the 2016 season based upon voting that took place March 11.

"A public-wide meeting was held here at the community center as news made its way to social media and a press release was also put out saying those interested in running for positions on a reformed board could e-mail their names and a ballot would be made," said Justin Martin, Superintendent of Recreation Programs at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center last week in his office.

Amanda Archibald drafted up a ballot with all those seeking positions in the interest of seeing the youth soccer board be reestablished since the group had officially been administratively dissolved at the beginning of the year.

"She had a direct stake in wanting to see the reorganization succeed," Martin further stated. "However, she did not get on the board."

Individuals could only run for one position, had to be 18 years of age or older, and had to be at the meeting to be considered for their wanted positions. Each person then had five minutes to address the public as to why he or she should be elected to that specific position.

Jason Stone, head boys soccer coach at Stevens High school, was elected president beating out Mike Petrin and Mike Zahara, while Shawn Wadsworth defeated Archibald and Zachary Shedlock for the vice-president position. Melinda Carpenter is the board's new secretary, receiving more votes than opponent Jenn Jarvis.

Treasurer Steve Nemi, Equipment Manager Jon Harford, and Concessions/Fundraising Coordinator Leigh Casey all won their respective positions running unopposed.

"I think, actually, everyone involved just wanted to see the board succeed," Martin explained. "It was actually pretty positive. All in all, we have respected people in all positions now who are going to lead the program in the right direction."

According to a letter written to Mark Brislin, Director of Parks and Recreation, by Jane Taylor, Claremont's City Solicitor, February 17, 2016, the CYSA, originally formed in 1990, was officially dissolved as of January 1, 2016 "because it did not make the required five-year

filing with the New Hampshire Secretary of State in 2015" She further wrote, "It is not at all unusual for small non-profits such as this to have these filings fall through the cracks."

"It is now up to the newly-elected board to refile to the Secretary of State and then, basically, figure out how they want to run the program," Martin quipped. "I know they are going to run it as a non-profit and raise funds as they have a coordinator to do that."

The CYSA is unique in that it runs two seasons of soccer, summer and fall, unlike many other locales who operate just one season. In the past, and expected to continue, youngsters ages K-8 are involved in Monday through Thursday evenings and another four hour period on Saturdays during the summer sessions with all action taking place at Monadnock Park. No traveling teams are operated. The fall schedule is yet to be determined and there is a traveling team in the fall session.

Registration for summer soccer opens Monday, April 18 and the deadline for both boys and girls, K-8, is Tuesday, May 24. Those who have questions are asked to contact Martin at the CSBCC or Stone at his e-mail address jds16@hotmail.com.

Intro To Sewing Workshop

CLAREMONT, NH--Ever want to learn to sew? Want to try making something with fabric? The Claremont MakerSpace is offering an Intro to Sewing workshop on Sunday, April 17th, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at 31 Pleasant St. in Claremont. Come learn fundamental sewing tech-

niques while completing some unique projects! Participants will learn straight machine stitching, pressing, hand sewing, back to back stitching, layering fabric, edge stitching, and how to incorporate zippers. The cost is \$15 per person. This fee covers all materials and tools. RSVP is required. More info about this event and others at:

www.claremontmakerspace.org/events.

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e-Ticker Business News

NHEC Announces 19% Summer Period Bill Decrease

PLYMOUTH, NH--Driven by a steep decrease in the seasonal cost of power, summer period electric bills will be going down by nearly 19% for most members of New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC).

Effective with bills rendered May 1, 2016, the Co-op Power portion of members' bills (the cost of actual energy) will decrease by 43%. The result for the typical residential member using 500 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month will be an overall bill decrease of 18.7%, or \$20.61 per month. The typical residential member using 1,000 kWh per month will see a total bill decrease of 21.5%, or \$41.21 per month.

The rate reductions were approved March 29 by the NHEC Board of Directors and continue an annual pattern of fluctuations that have seen the cost of power increase during the winter months and decrease in summer months. Driving these wide price swings are seasonal variations in the regional wholesale price of natural gas, which is used to generate approximately half of the electricity produced in New England.

Over the past several years, electric rates during the six-month summer period (May 1 – Nov. 1) have been substantially lower than the winter period, when constraints in the region's natural gas pipeline infrastructure have led to price spikes. Natural gas demand increases sharply during the winter months due to its use as a primary heating fuel, which drives up the cost of generating electricity for winter delivery.

"Until natural gas pipeline capacity constraints are addressed in New England, we expect seasonal electric rate variations to continue," said Steve Kaminski, NHEC Vice President of Power Resources & Access. "Looking forward to next winter, though conditions may change, at this time our outlook indicates rates should be lower than this past winter's."

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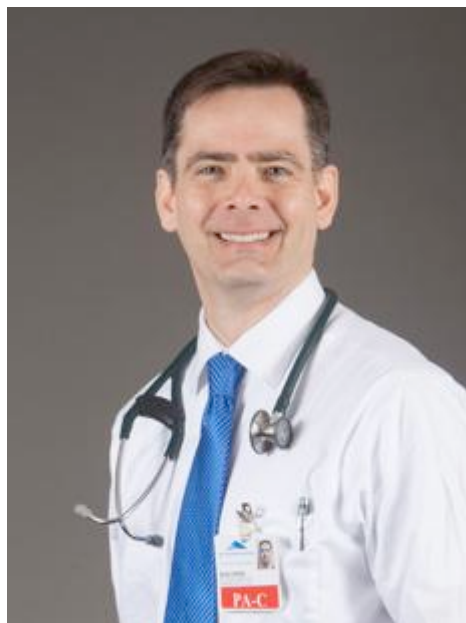
O'Brien, PA-C, Joins Full-time staff At Mt. Ascutney Hospital

WINDSOR, VT--Sean C. O'Brien, PA-C, recently transitioned to a full-time staff position at Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center. Previously he had been a per-diem staff member at MAHHC and worked for several years at the Dartmouth College Student Health Service.

"We are very pleased that Sean has come on board full-time at the Hospital," said Kevin W. Donovan, MAHHC President & CEO. "In the year that he has been working here, Sean has evaluated and treated hundreds of patients in a caring and highly professional manner. He has also successfully performed minor in-house surgeries for many patients."

O'Brien is a 2012 graduate of Franklin Pierce University in Lebanon, NH where he earned a Master's in Physician Assistant Studies, and also served as president of his class.

O'Brien's medical experience is wide, deep and varied. In addition to his experience as a physician assistant, from 1999 through 2012 he served as an emergency medical technician (EMT) with St Michael's College



Sean C. O'Brien, PA-C

Rescue, Shelburne Rescue and Charlotte Rescue of VT. From 2002 to 2010 he worked as the clinical research coordinator in general surgery at the University of Vermont in Burlington, VT. O'Brien has also worked for the chief medical examiner in Burlington, VT. He continues to serve as an adjunct member of the teaching faculty at Franklin Pierce University, lecturing, teaching and mentoring students in clinical skills, critical thinking and differential diagnoses and other areas.

In addition to his work experience, O'Brien has authored several medical papers and presentations and served as guest lecturer to local medical organizations. He also served as board member, committee member and volunteer for dozens of local, health-focused organizations. He is currently the President-elect for the Physician Assistant Academy of Vermont and takes office as the president in June.

"Sean is an ideal physician assistant," says Mr. Donovan. "His experiences as a clinician, a professor, a researcher, a medical examiner and an EMT all come together to make him an accomplished and expert provider for our community. We are pleased to welcome him as a full-time member of our MAHHC family."

Stay, Work, Play, Give Nonprofit Fair

CLAREMONT, NH--The Sullivan County Young Professionals network is teaming up with Stay Work Play New Hampshire to host
(Continued on page A17)

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e-Ticker Business News

Fair, from A16

the second annual Stay Work Play Give nonprofit fair on Wednesday, April 20th, at the Common Man, 21 Water Street, from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Join the Sullivan County Young Professionals and the Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce at the Common Man to learn about exciting opportunities with nonprofits from all over the Claremont region.

Stay Work Play Give is a partnership between Stay Work Play and young professionals organizations from around the state to host local nonprofit fairs in different parts of NH all on one day. The idea behind this is to encourage NH young professionals to get civically engaged in their communities through volunteering with local nonprofits.

Mt. Sunapee Resort Receives Approval For West Bowl Expansion

NEWBURY, NH--On April 6 the Governor and Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire approved a decision by the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) to allow Mount Sunapee to move forward with its West Bowl Expansion.

The West Bowl Expansion will add 56 acres of skiing terrain down the west flank of Mount Sunapee into the town of Goshen. There will be four top-to-bottom runs serviced by a 5,100' high-speed quad chairlift. The terrain will be primarily for intermediate and advanced intermediate skiers and snowboarders. All of the trails will be serviced by snowmaking. The West Bowl will create another entrance to Mount Sunapee Resort approximately two miles up Brook Road off Route 103 in Goshen. The base area will have a modest base lodge, parking and a beginner area serviced by a carpet lift.

"We are pleased with DRED's decision which we believe thoughtfully balances

conservation, recreation and economic vitality, and recognizes our efforts to be good stewards of Mount Sunapee," says Jay Gamble, vice president and general manager of Mount Sunapee Resort.

The West Bowl Expansion is part of Mount Sunapee's Revised Five-Year Master Development Plan which was submitted to DRED in June of 2014. There has been strong local support for the expansion. In March of 2014 the Town Of Goshen voted to create the Mount Sunapee Recreational District at their Town Meeting, which is zoned to accept the West Bowl Expansion. Selectmen from five surrounding towns submitted letters to DRED supporting the Master Development Plan.

As part of the approved decision, 150 acres outside the current Mount Sunapee State Park boundary that include segments of the trails, lift and snowmaking for the West Bowl Expansion will

be added to the ski area leasehold within the Sunapee State Park. Another 260 acres will be donated by Mount Sunapee for conservation lands along the Sunapee-Pillsbury corridor. A total of 410 acres will be added to the Mount Sunapee State Park.

To read more about the approved decision and see maps of the expansion, visit http://www.mountsunapee.com/mtsunapeewinter/aboutsunapee/MDP.asp?utm_source=MSR&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MDP.



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While Paying Off Student Loans, Don't Forget About Retirement

Even if you've been out of school for a few years, you may still have a vivid reminder of college: your student loan debt. Since you've joined the workforce, you might be paying back your loans as best you can. But can you gradually reduce your debts while still putting money away for your long-term goals – such as retirement?

Of course, you might think it's premature to even think about retiring, since you probably have decades to go before you say goodbye to the working world. But the sooner you begin saving and investing for retirement, the more time you'll have for your money to grow. Plus, your early start will help you avoid having to play "catch up" later.

Still, it can be challenging to juggle payments for student loans and contributions to a retirement account, especially if your loans are sizable. How can you meet these two separate demands on your income?

To begin with, you may have some flexibility in how you repay your student loan. Although you might have selected, or were assigned, a repayment plan when you first begin repaying your student loan, you can typically change this plan to accommodate your financial situation. You'll need to contact your loan servicer for details on adjusting your repayments.

In any case, though, if you have a large student loan, it's safe to say that you will be paying it back for quite some time. So, rather than wait for this debt to be cleared before you start saving for retirement, think about how you can take action now.

For one thing, take full advantage of your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. This type of plan certainly offers some key benefits: Your earnings can grow on a tax-deferred basis, and you typically contribute on a pretax basis, which means the more you put in, the lower your taxable income. Plus, you can fund your plan with a variety of investment choices. But for you, perhaps the biggest benefit is that your employer simply takes the money from your paycheck before you get it and puts it into your account. You don't have to pay all your bills first and then hope you still have something left to invest – it's already been done for you. Ultimately, contributing to your 401(k) can be a "painless" way of investing, and it may make it easier, psychologically at least, for you to pursue the two goals of paying your college debts and saving for the future.

If you don't have a 401(k) or similar plan, you can still follow the same principle of essentially freeing yourself from initiating investment moves, simply by setting up a bank authorization to automatically transfer money from your checking or savings account into an IRA, which offers some of the same features as a 401(k). You can start with relatively small amounts – perhaps as little as \$50 per month – and increase your contributions as your income rises.

As you well remember, college wasn't cheap. And you don't want to make it even more costly by having your student loan payments interfere with progress you can make toward your retirement funding goals. So, think about "automating" the contributions to your retirement accounts. The effort can be well worth it.

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



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You have only so many years to prepare for retirement. That's why contributing to your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is so important. Fortunately, you still have time to maximize your 2015 IRA contribution before the April 18, 2016 deadline.

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10th Annual Steppin' Up To End Violence 5K Walk & Fun Run

CLAREMONT, NH--On Saturday, April 30, the 10th Annual Steppin' Up To End Violence 5K Walk & Fun Run will take place to benefit Turning Points Network (TPN) and its mission of preventing violence, promoting respect, strengthening lives. Steppin' Up begins and ends at the Claremont Middle School. Sign-in for all participants begins at 8:30 a.m., rally at 9:45 a.m., walk/run begins at 10:00 a.m. Teams and individual walkers, runners, rollers and strollers all welcome. Family-friendly event with great food and raffle prizes. Crowd-friendly dogs welcome. For more info: www.turningpointsnetwork.org or 543-0155.



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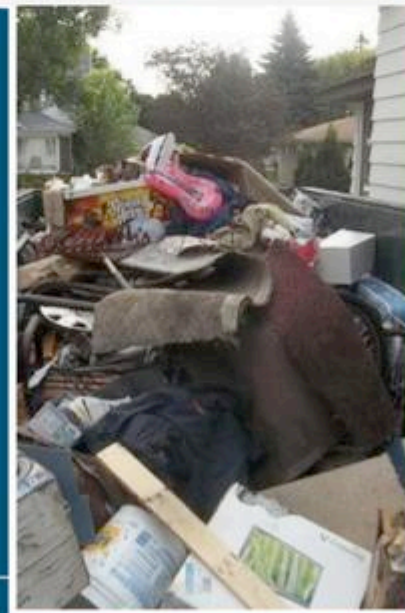
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Claremont Confidential

By Les St.Pierre



Community Spirit Alive And Well

April 15, as we all know, does not exactly have the best of reputations in this great land of ours. It is usually Tax Day, that time of the year when we must have our personal income taxes filed or face the dubious consequence of getting hauled off to jail. At least, that is what we have been led to believe. We do get a reprieve this year getting an extra three days to relent to government pressure.

Claremont youngsters, however, are using the date to make their city a better place to live in a much more, and beneficial, manner. This coming Friday the streets of the city and the yards of its residents will be filled with Stevens High School students--freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors--hard at work cleaning up the litter, garbage, and other unsightly remains that are usually left over from postponed responsibilities falling prey to winter's snowfall.

"We are just trying to make Claremont cleaner and a nicer place to live," said Evie Plourde, a Stevens High teacher, from her living room couch in an interview last week. "We are going to go to the parks and the trails and all around town picking up sticks and trash, stuff like that. The whole school is involved. Once the elementary kids are bused to their respective schools I think we will have a 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. time slot in which to work. It is a really big endeavor. The kids need community hours to graduate and this goes a long way for those students to acquire those needed hours."

Students will also be going out to Fort Number Four in Charlestown and to St. Gauden's in Cornish and teachers, too, will be involved as much as the students. Shelley Avery and Karen Cullison, reportedly, will be painting inside the high school in areas not easily attainable and the school's mission statement is expected to be painted in the entryway.

This indoor-outdoor endeavor has another side to it, also. A side which Claremont has always been known to showcase: helping those in need. Plourde, admittedly, has what she refers to as a "selfish" stake in all this. You see, her husband, Rick, the head custodian at Stevens High school, is waylaid with an as yet to be determined ailment and is expected to be sidelined for a long, long time.

He cannot do much movement, so four students from Kelly Fontaine's class at the school and 15 students from Mrs. Plourde's class will be at the Plourde residence April 15 doing a lot of yard work, putting up an awning, moving the outdoor furniture into place and even, perhaps,



Evie and Rick Plourde (Les St.Pierre photo).

getting the pool ready.

"I can watch and tell them what to do," said a somewhat disappointed Plourde from his living room chair, "but that is about all I can do."

Plourde has overcome a flesh-eating disease he came up with four years ago, a disease that had four others before him at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center suffer death. I am not about to go into all the details of that ordeal but, trust me, it's not pretty.

Again, now four years later, disease has struck again and, because of what past medical issues Plourde has gone through, doctors are not taking this present malady lightly. The tale of MRI's CAT scans, x-rays, cultures, paperwork, diagnosis, non-diagnosis, guesswork, and almost anything else you could think of in regards to an unexpected crisis is enough to make War and Peace seem like a three-

minute drill. Necrotizing fasciitis, that deadly disease of four years ago, does, indeed, have a 1-in 4 death rate, It is an infection caused by bacteria and destroys tissue covering muscles. The Plourdes are in pins and needles hoping beyond hope it has not reared its ugly head again. The first occurrence was caused by an strep virus. This time it is a staph infection. The outlook is much better. However, not knowing is a killer in itself.

"I wish I could hit the Powerball!" the ill Plourde shouted. "I mean, what are the chances of me getting two strange diseases."

Plourde has been at the high school 31 ½ years and his wife has been the Family and Consumer Science teacher at the school for the last 27 years, having substituted 15 years prior to that. For those of us baby boomers, the family and consumer science title is what we once called home economics. "I'm a teacher, not a nurse," Mrs. Plourde, the former Evelyn Bressell, exclaimed, but taking to heart her newfound task of caring for her husband. She needs to be home every day at 2:00 p.m. to tend to her husband's bandaging. Rick has what is known as a PICC which aids in his getting antibiotics into his system intravenously through one of three veins in his arm, with the tubing stretching across his chest and into his heart. The last two weeks the Plourdes have heard things like, "If it opens, he will bleed to death," and other scary exclamations from doctors and nurses. Mrs. Plourde has had a visiting nurse show her the ropes and is

now capable of making the necessary adjustments in caring for her husband. The two have two daughters. Danielle is a paralegal in West Hartford, Ct. and Jacqueline works in the court system in Newport and is married to Jeremy Troy, a physical education for the last eight years at Stevens They have a son, Colton.

"You have to be your own advocate," Evie exclaimed. "You need to tell the doctors what you want. You have to be aggressive. You need to be the boss, not them."

As for Rick's mood in all this latest turmoil? "I am an anomaly. I am on the mend! You can't keep a good Frenchman down!" he concluded, anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Stevens students concerned about his health and ready, willing, and able to help out in this time of distress.

2nd Annual Rock Your Camo 5k & Dirty Dash

CLAREMONT, NH--The 2nd Annual Rock Your Camo 5k & Dirty Dash will take place on Saturday, April 23rd, at Arrowhead Recreation Area. This family friendly community event will include a 5K and a kids' Dirty Dash, music, food, face painting, beer and camo... So much camo!


New this year is the Kids' Dirty Dash, RRCF's version of a muddy, messy obstacle course for kids 12 and under. There will be mud, tires, balance beams, hay bales and more.

This event, put on by the Red River Charitable Foundation, will support part of its mission of supporting veterans in our local community.

Join Red River for a day of fun as they raise money for local veterans. If you have camo, don't forget to ROCK IT!

Register at

http://redrivercharitablefoundation.com/event/rock-your-camo/?event_date=2016-04-23.



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It's About Food

By Johnny Navillus



Broiling

When I first got serious about cooking, I started broiling. It was a bit tricky at first, but I got the hang of it. The thing that mystified me was keeping the oven door open a bit. The answer I got was "I don't know, my mother always did it that way." I got the same answer from her mother. It never struck me as being overly safe, but I went along.

After a while I found out that it was to keep the broiler on. If the oven temperature reached 500° the heat would shut off and broiling would stop. A couple of years ago I got a new stove. This one did not have a "stop" to keep the door open. I went to the owners manual and found out that the broiler would not stop when the temperature got to 500°. Evidently they thought it was a safety issue, too. Now I just leave it on broil and the door closed all the way. No problem.

The reason I'm doing this is that some newer cooks don't seem to know what the broiler is for. They use it for searing and then finish the meat on "Bake". OK, guys. Sear your steaks in a very hot skillet on the stove top and finish them in the oven with the setting on Bake at 450. The "however" is coming next.

However, for the thinner steaks like flank steak and skirt steak, you'll want to just use the broiler. This will sear and cook at the same time. Because these steaks are thinner, they take less time and if you over cook them, they get tough.

When I was growing up, we had flank steak a lot. Because we had a large family and it was a cheap cut of meat. It had the reputation of being tough. It wasn't until the local butcher told my mother how to cook it that Mom started buying it.

Now that everyone knows what a great cut of meat this is, it has gotten pricier and more difficult to find. Some supermarkets only carry it during "grilling season".

Here's the best way to do these flat steaks.

Turn the oven on Broil and let it heat up for a couple of minutes.

Spray the grilling pan with a non-stick spray. Because of the high heat, try to use the spray labeled for grilling.

(It's the two-part pan with the slits in the top part.)

Salt and pepper both sides.

Place the steak in the grilling pan fat side up.

Place it in the oven as close to the heat source as possible. If the meat touches the flame or heat source, drop it down a notch. You want to sear it, not burn it.

This will only take about 5 minutes or so. Keep an eye on it and when it looks like you want it, turn it over. The bottom side will be starting to sear so it won't take as long to finish.

When you have it looking like a restaurant did it, remove it from the heat. Let it rest about 5 or 10 minutes. I know, it's hard. It looks so good you want to get right to it. If you cut it now all the juices will run out. See last week's sermon on patience in the kitchen.

Now, the secret can be told. Slice this across the grain and in very thin slices. Hold the knife at a 45° angle so you are slicing on an angle. The middle should be rare to medium rare. Any more that that and it will toughen up.

For your first time doing a flank steak, just use salt and pepper to get a taste for how it is "plain". You may not want to use any more than that. My lovely spouse insists on just salt and pepper. I've tried garlic powder, steak seasoning, and rubs and she just wants it PLAIN. Ok. That's how she gets it.

Play with your food. Sometimes.

Write to Johnny at etickernews@gmail.com.

**MEMBER NOTICE
ANNUAL MEETING**

The 57th Annual Meeting of the NH Community Federal Credit Union will be held at the credit union office on Friday, April 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

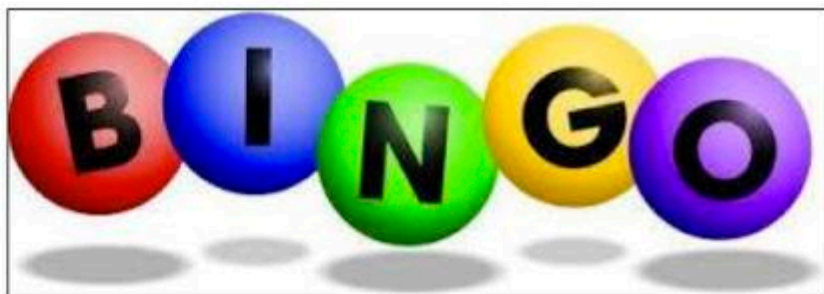
There will be light refreshments from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

The public is welcome to attend. This meeting allows members to vote for members seeking election to the board of directors and to ask questions about their credit union.

Members running for a board of director position and wanting to be included on the ballot must submit an application, to the attention of the C.E.O., no later than Tuesday, April 12th before 5:00 p.m. Applications are available at the office.

After the meeting there will be a special drawing for those in attendance.

Sullivan County Humane Society brings you.....



Sunday, April 17th
@ the
Claremont Senior Center

5 Acer Heights Rd, Claremont NH

Join us for 20 fun games of BINGO for various prizes!

Purchasing a \$5 book gets you play for each of the 20 regular games

And buying multiple books can only multiply your LUCK

Doors will open @ noon & games will begin at 1:00

PRIZES INCLUDE:

Subway gift card

Broil King Roaster

Movie Theatre gift card

Pampered Chef Pitcher

Coach Wristlet

AND SO MUCH MORE!



OUR GRAND PRIZE
SPECIAL GAME WILL BE:

\$300 Gift Card
to the
Common Man
Claremont Location

Buy as many \$3 sheets as
you'd like to have plenty
of chances to win these!!!

Proceeds will benefit the Sullivan County Humane Society.
Pursuant to NH Gaming Laws, no one under 18 is permitted during the event.

Mayoral Notes

By
Charlene Lovett



Earth Day – A Call for Action

Though recent temperatures may not agree, spring is here and plans are underway to celebrate Earth Day throughout the nation and here at home. April 22nd marks the 46th anniversary of Earth Day, a day set aside to help raise awareness and promote education regarding the environmental challenges we face. It is an annual reminder to us that we need to be good stewards of our environment, and that action is required if we are to be successful.

Surprisingly, Earth Day was not always an annual event. When it began in 1970, it was celebrated every 10 years. It wasn't until 1990 that Bruce Anderson, who lived in NH at the time, recognized the need to make Earth Day an annual event. According to Anderson, "Earth Day up to that time was the loudest environmental call to action in our history. Much of its power came from its call to individual action."

Working with Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson who is considered the father of Earth Day, Bruce took action in 1990 and led the effort to have Earth Day observed every April. Since then, communities across the nation have celebrated Earth Day in their own way, and are continually finding new opportunities to do so. This year, Claremont will be offering residents free tire disposal on April 23rd at the Transfer Station.

During discussions at the Transfer Station Committee, it became clear that we had a tire disposal problem in the City and taking action was necessary. Tires, whether improperly stored or disposed of, pose public safety and health issues. If ignited, tires are almost impossible to extinguish. When burning, they emit toxic fumes that pollute the air and cause respiratory problems for residents and firefighters exposed to the fumes, and the melted rubber creates an oil that can pollute ground and surface water. Tires also capture water which can become a breeding ground for mosquitos that carry numerous viruses such as the West Nile Virus and encephalitis.

In response to those committee discussions and in observance of Earth Day, DPW has created a one-day initiative. On April 23rd, residents can take unwanted or abandoned car and/or light truck tires (less than 20", with or without rims) to the Transfer Station free of charge. Residents must have a Transfer Station Decal, and may drop off tires anytime between 8am and 4pm. Please note that local businesses are ineligible to participate in this event.

This is only one way in which we as a community or as individuals can celebrate Earth Day. There are many things that we can do to improve our surroundings, and it can begin with the simple effort of picking up litter. As Bruce Anderson stated, "There are countless things we can change in our lives to lessen the impact and create a healthier environment." What will you do?

Every year, my family and I choose a project for Earth Day. If you would like to share your plans for celebrating Earth Day, please send them to my email address below. Together, we can make our environment a healthier place.

Charlene Lovett is the Mayor of Claremont.

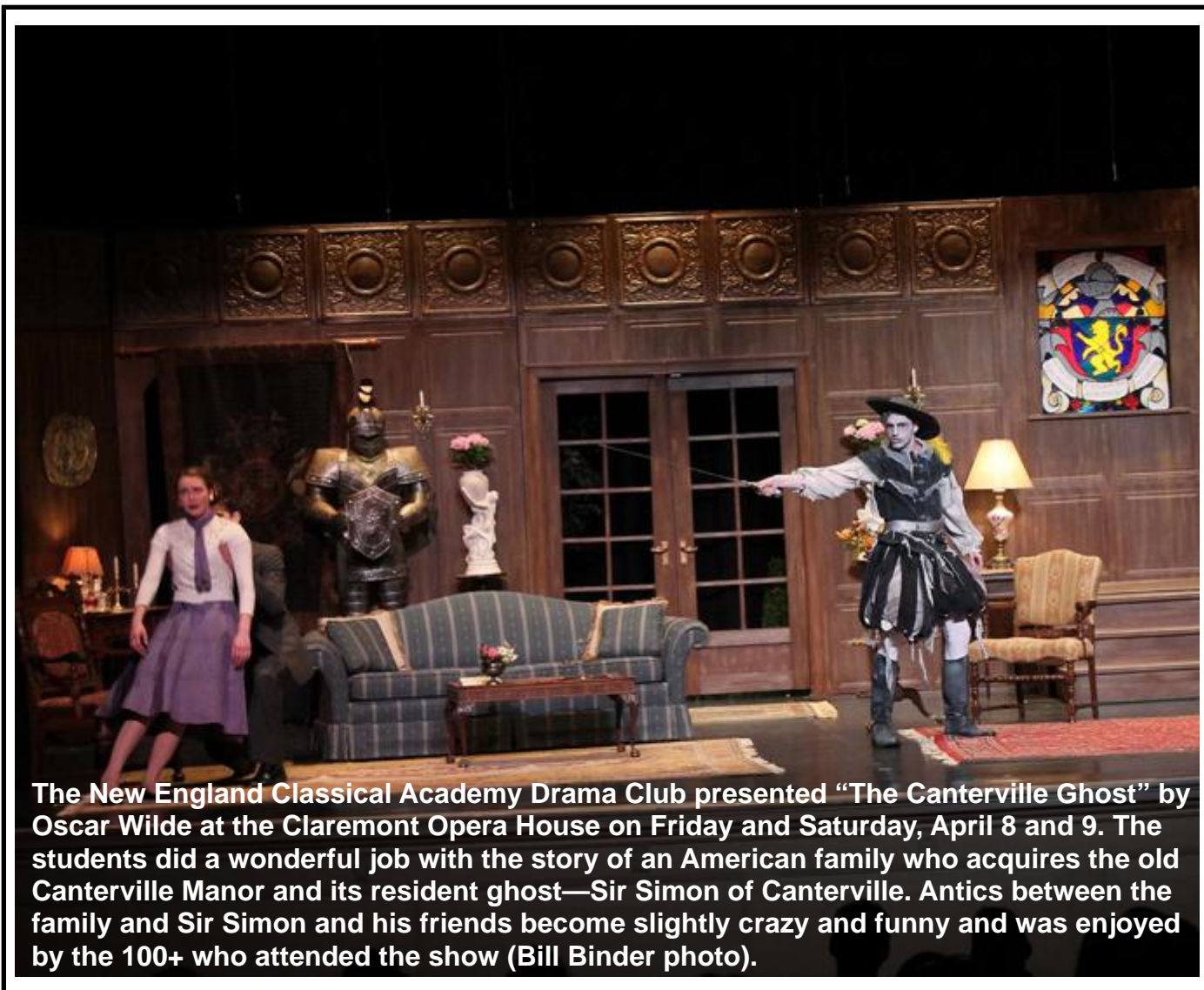
Please email questions, comments or concerns to her at char_lovett@hotmail.com.

Marshmallow Catapult Workshop At The Fiske

CLAREMONT, NH--Fiske Free Library presents a Marshmallow Catapult workshop. On Tuesday, April 19, from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m., there will be a STEM workshop in the Gilmore Room at Fiske Free Library. This program is open to ages 8 and up. In this workshop, kids will be given some inexpensive, basic, supplies and some paper. They will then design and build a catapult before testing it for accuracy, height, and strength. Kids will have time to adjust their designs and improve them over the course of the workshop.

Don't miss out! Drop by the Children's desk or call 542-7017, for additional information. This is a free program, walk-ins are welcome, no registration is necessary.

All Children's programs in 2016 are sponsored by the Friends of Fiske Free Library.



The New England Classical Academy Drama Club presented "The Canterville Ghost" by Oscar Wilde at the Claremont Opera House on Friday and Saturday, April 8 and 9. The students did a wonderful job with the story of an American family who acquires the old Canterville Manor and its resident ghost—Sir Simon of Canterville. Antics between the family and Sir Simon and his friends become slightly crazy and funny and was enjoyed by the 100+ who attended the show (Bill Binder photo).

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Charlestown Rd, Claremont



Plainfield Man Pleads Guilty To Child Porn Possession

CONCORD, NH--John Martin Favor, 49, of Plainfield, NH, pled guilty last week in the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire to possessing child pornography, announced United States Attorney Emily Gray Rice.

An investigation conducted by the New Hampshire Internet Crimes Against Children (NH ICAC), the Hinsdale, New Hampshire Police Department, and Homeland Security Investigations Manchester revealed that an individual was uploading images of child pornography to an online bulletin board from the defendant's Plainfield residence. A federal search warrant was issued and executed in September 2015. Law enforcement ultimately discovered hundreds of videos and images of child pornography on Favor's personal computer.

Favor is scheduled for sentencing in July 2016. The charges to which he pleaded guilty carry a statutory maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. The court will determine Favor's actual sentence after it has had an opportunity to review a pre-sentence investigation report prepared by the United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office.

Man Arrested For Theft From Motor Vehicles

LEBANON, NH--During the past several weeks, the Lebanon Police Department has seen an increase in items being stolen from inside of motor vehicles.

The Lebanon Police Department conducted numerous patrols and a lengthy investigation which lead to the identification of a suspect: Christopher Rodgers, age 24, of Grafton NH. Rodgers was arrested and charged with three counts of theft from a motor vehicle. He was released on personal recognizance bail with an arraignment date of June 06.

Anyone with information on these thefts or anyone who is a victim of these thefts that has not yet come forward is urged to contact the Lebanon Police Department at 603-448-1212.

The investigation is ongoing and additional charges are expected.

Lebanon's Glenwood Cemetery Closed To Vehicles Temporarily

LEBANON, NH--Due to the sudden Spring thaw, and the poor ground conditions at Glenwood Cemetery, the gates are closed to all vehicles until further notice. Visitors may still access the cemetery by foot.

If anyone has concerns or questions regarding this matter, please contact the Public Works Office at (603) 448-3112.

Price Of First-Class Stamps Goes Down 2 Cents

The price of a stamp dropped two cents over the weekend.

The temporary rate increase granted to the U.S. Postal Service in January 2014 by regulators to help offset the lingering effects of the most recent recession ended, leading to the decrease, reported the *Wall Street Journal*. Now a stamp for a 1-ounce letter costs 47 cents, down from the previous 49 cents. International letters went down by 5 cents to \$1.15, and postcards are now 1 cent cheaper, costing 34 cents.

The move however, was not welcomed by the Postal Service which fought the change, saying that the cut adds up to about \$2 billion in revenue annually.

"Given our precarious financial condition and ongoing business needs, the price reduction required by the PRC exacerbates our losses," said USPS Postmaster General Megan Brennan in a release. According to the USPS, the service estimates that it lost \$7 billion in revenue in 2009 alone.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported that the USPS delivered 154 billion pieces of mail last year, a 27% decline since 2007 as deliveries fell each year. First Class Mail, the USPS's most profitable product, declined by 35% over the same period to 62 billion pieces.

In its most recent quarter, the Postal Service reported its first quarterly profit since 2011, earning \$307 million. Excluding interest-rate changes and the surcharge, it would have lost \$700 million. In addition to other legislative changes to ease the Postal Service's financial burdens, officials have asked Congress to reinstate and make the surcharge permanent, said the *Wall Street Journal*.

Below: Linden's Bounce House on Pleasant Street in Claremont opened on Friday. In addition to bounce houses and related attractions, the play site has sensory tables and a snack area (Bill Binder photo).





Valley Regional Wine Gala

To benefit access to primary care

Did you know:

There are **236 homeless school-age children** in Sullivan County with **no primary care provider?**

We want to **keep those children healthy** and we need your help.

Our staff is coordinating with local agencies such as the Claremont Soup Kitchen and Geisel School of Medicine Medical Students to identify and provide care for these children in our family practice. Our wine gala will raise funds for access to primary care.

Here is how you can get involved:

- ✓ Become an event sponsor (*Please see sponsorship page for details.*)
- ✓ Provide a raffle prize (\$50 value or more)
- ✓ Buy tickets or help us sell tickets

Our partners include local restaurants, and these NH wineries:

Southern Wine and Spirits of New England (National Broker)
The Imported Grape, Bedford NH
New England Uncorked, Bedford NH
Flag Hill Distillery, Lee NH
La Belle Vineyards and Winery, Amherst NH
Farnum Hill Ciders at Poverty Lane Orchards, Lebanon NH
Newfound Lake Winery, Bristol NH

For questions or to sign up, please contact:

Kyle Ranney, Community Liaison

Email Kyle.Ranney@vrh.org or call 543-5601



Valley Regional Healthcare

Wine Gala

Our staff is coordinating with local agencies such as the Claremont Soup Kitchen and Geisel School of Medicine Medical Students to identify and provide access to care for homeless children in our family practice. Our wine gala will raise funds for access to primary care.



May 1, 2016

4:00 PM—6:00 PM

Newport Opera House

\$20 pp or \$30 couple

Proceeds to support
healthcare for children
in our community.

Sponsored by Valley Regional Healthcare.

For more information or to purchase tickets please
contact:

Kyle Ranney

Kyle.Ranney@VRH.org

603-543-5601

Sample the best foods
and wines around!!