

e-Ticker News of Claremont

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July 11, 2016

Considers Next Move

School District Ordered To Go Back To Block Scheduling At SHS

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--The New Hampshire Public Employee Labor Relations Board (NHPELRB) issued a ruling Thursday, upholding an arbitrator's decision that required the Claremont School Board to go back to the old Block Schedule for classes at Stevens High School. The unanimous ruling followed a

cease and desist request filed by the teachers' union. Twice, last June and again in April, the arbitrator agreed with the union, ruling that the board violated the collective bargaining agreement by implementing the new A/B Schedule.

The board ruled that the union's motion "for a cease and desist order is granted. The District shall immediately comply with the complete remedy provided in the second arbitra-

tion award and take all necessary steps to revert to the Block Schedule for the 2016-17 school year."

"We will seek interlocutory appeal and ask for a stay of the order," said Claremont School Board Chair Brian Rapp. "This was just on the cease and desist request, not the actual hearing. If the board is unsuccessful, it's also very sad that our high school staff will lose their 8%

(Continued on page A2)



Lighting Up The Sky...

Unsettled weather over the last few days brought thunder, lightning and showers to the area (Bill Binder photos).

Schedule, from A1

raises.

“It will be a challenge to change students’ schedules when we’re one-fourth into July,” Rapp added. “The impact on kids and their class selection will likely be severe. We will do our best to minimize that impact.

“What should really concern people is that the PELRB is hinting that public policy decisions can actually be ceded to an arbitrator. Local burn permitting is an authority given by statute, like delivery of instruction, to the Fire Chief. Imagine a ruling that pulls that authority and gives it to an arbitrator. It’s very troubling.”

Sugar River Education Association (SREA) president Tammy Yates released the following statement, saying, “The school board has now gotten three decisions saying they should not have implemented the new schedule. The school board should honor those decisions. In addition, both the students and teachers at the high school have struggled to deal with increased student demands and increased student stress under the A/B schedule. That needs to be fixed as well. The SREA trusts that this is a ‘wake up call’ for the school board

to honor its promises to the association and act in good faith with regard to scheduling at the high school.”

Superintendent of Schools Middleton McGoodwin also issued a statement, saying, “Despite two previous offers by the Claremont School Board this past spring to resolve the issues with the Stevens High School schedule, no resolution was reached.

“As a result, the SREA brought their concerns involving the high school schedule to the New Hampshire Public Employee Labor Relations Board (PELRB).

“(Thursday), the PELRB issued a ruling that ordered the Claremont School District to revert to the former Stevens High School 4X4 block schedule for the upcoming school year.

“The nine-page ruling on the SREA’s motion for a cease and desist order was based on a side bar letter involving block scheduling attached to the 2014-2017 collective bargaining agreement.

“This ruling requires the Claremont School District to immediately comply, and take all necessary steps, to revert to the former 4X4 block schedule in place during the 2014-2015 school year.

“At this time, the School Board is considering an interlocutory appeal to the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

“However, to ensure the students are served regardless of any continued legal proceedings, the following changes involving Stevens High School are now being considered for 2016-2017:

- Students’ and teachers’ schedules.
- Discontinue advisory periods.
- Discontinue flex block (student intervention period that occurred during the day). Replace this by a 30 minute extra help session after school.

- Adjust the 2016-2017 Program of Study, student handbook, core academic course sequencing, curriculum documents, as well as certain plans/programs in place for the October 2016 NEASC visit.

- The bell schedule planned for 2016-2017 will revert to the 2013-2014 schedule.

- The 8% additional SHS staff compensation planned for 2016-2017 will be eliminated.”

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.

Rapp said that “Just to be clear, this was the ruling on the cease and desist order. The ruling hasn’t come about yet as we haven’t had the hearing on the actual case (block scheduling) yet.”

In April Rapp told the *e-Ticker News*, “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.”

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Phyllis A. Muzeroll
Publisher/Editor

Bill Binder
Photographer/Reporter

Les St.Pierre
Reporter/Columnist

Erin Collier
Reporter

etickernews@gmail.com

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

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7/09/2016

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10 28 32 61 64 12 3

Mega Millions 7/08/2016
8 19 20 55 73 5 2

Megabucks
3 10 31 36 38 3

Hot Lotto
10 12 26 28 38 3

For more lottery numbers,
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LAW OFFICE OF
JAMES G. FELEEN, PLLC
WWW.FELEENLAW.COM

JAMES G. FELEEN, ESQ.
EMAIL: jim@feleenlaw.com

TEL: (603) 504-6507
FAX: (866) 862-6394
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Commentary

NH House Happenings

By State Rep. John Cloutier



New County Budget Adopted

Sullivan County's new budget is \$642,652 lower than the previous one, though the amount of property taxes collected to help fund the budget remains the same.

On June 28 the Sullivan County Delegation to New Hampshire's House of Representatives in Newport adopted on a 10-0 roll call vote the Fiscal Year 2017 County Budget. The budget took effect on July 1. Adoption of the \$31,497,343 budget came after a brief presentation by Sunapee Rep. Suzanne Gottling, Chair of the Delegation's EFC (Executive Finance Committee) and approval of two amendments making minor downward adjustments to the budget which the EFC had recommended for adoption by the Full Delegation. The previous Fiscal Year 2016 Budget totaled \$32,140,028, with \$12,944,962 of the total being paid for by county property taxes.

One reason that the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget is \$642,652 lower than Fiscal Year 2016's is because non-property tax revenue to help pay for county operations is projected to decrease by about \$106,195, according to the EFC and County Commissioners. To help make up for this decrease, fund necessary capital and operational expenditures, as well as insure that property taxes do not increase, the just-adopted budget uses a total of \$1,972,817 in county government's Fund Balance to help compensate. For readers' information, the Fund Balance is surplus money that was most recently estimated at \$5,942,912 in 2015, according to the county's auditors. I liken the Fund Balance to New Hampshire's Rainy Day Fund, which is surplus money that our state government taps into in case of financial emergencies. In Sullivan County's case, the still healthy Fund Balance has been used in recent years to help reduce, or at least keep county property taxes from rising.

As for Fiscal Year 2017 Budget expenditures, they are broken down as follows. First, the largest expenditure is for Sullivan County Health Care, popularly known as the county nursing home, and it totals \$14,183,727. The next highest expenditure is \$5,322,882 for Human Services, which includes care for financially-eligible Sullivan County residents in nursing homes other than Sullivan County Health Care as well as residents being served by HCBC (Home & Community-Based Care). Rep. Gottling reminded the Delegation on June 28 that Human Services' portion of the budget includes care for all eligible county residents in all public and private nursing homes, even if such homes are outside Sullivan County.

Next, the third largest expenditure is \$4,844,303 for Sullivan County's Department of Corrections, which is based at the County Complex in Unity. Under present New Hampshire law, county departments of corrections and their correctional facilities are generally responsible for temporarily housing individuals arrested in their counties for state crimes until such individuals are bailed out, or until they can be tried in

court. County correctional facilities also incarcerate most individuals convicted of state crimes with sentences of one year or less. Individuals convicted of crimes with sentences of more than one year usually serve their sentences in one of New Hampshire's three state prisons.

More specifically, the Department of Corrections' Unity facility consists of the Old Jail Building, opened in 1978, and the Community Corrections Center, completed in 2010. The Community Corrections Center is where many of the convicted inmates live, if they are eligible and willing participants in Sullivan County's TRAILS Program which seeks to change inmates' lives by persuading them to deal with their various problems that led them to commit the crimes for which they are now imprisoned. Especially the problem of addiction to illegal drugs, which is the major reason for most of the inmates being imprisoned, according to what I have learned from my service as a state representative. Also, I have recently learned that the TRAILS Program is apparently as of today reducing the recidivism rate of Sullivan County inmates. In fact, I have learned from Corrections Supt. David Berry that many of the state's remaining nine counties have been so impressed with TRAILS that they are seeking to institute similar programs in their counties.

Returning to the rest of Sullivan County's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget, there is a total of \$1,533,215 appropriated for the Facilities & Operations Department. This department helps maintain the buildings and grounds of Sullivan County government, including Newport's Remington Woodhull County Building and the much larger County Complex in Unity. The County Complex includes most of the land actually owned by county government as well as the previously-mentioned Sullivan County Health Care and Department of Corrections. Finally, it includes a few buildings still remaining from the now-disbanded county farm that I believe ceased being a farm in 1992, as well as the biomass facility, completed in 2012, which burns wood to help provide heat and electricity to the entire Complex.

Another major part of the current budget is the \$1,089,180 appropriated to the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department. This department headed by the elected High Sheriff, and consisting of both full- and part-time deputy sheriffs, provides a mix of valuable services. Such services include transporting inmates between the County's Department of Corrections, other correctional facilities, and various courts. Also, it serves paperwork on parties involved in civil cases before the courts, including landlord-tenant disputes. Speaking of courts, the deputy sheriffs also provide security for courtrooms in both Claremont and Newport. Finally, the department helps provide police protection throughout the county when asked as well as for the Towns of Lempster and Unity, which do not currently have their own police forces.

Finally yet another budget appropriation is the \$1,067,412 for County Administration. This money is for the operation of the County Commissioners' Office, including salaries, benefits as well as other expenses for the three part-time Commissioners and their small full-time staff. Among the full-time staff is the County Manager, who is directly hired by the Commissioners to do the day-to-day work of running our county.

More about our current county budget, what it costs, and the services provided by it in my next column.

Email: joelcloutier@comcast.net

House of Representatives – Claremont

District 3/Ward 1: Andrew O’Hearne
603-558-1038
andrew.ohearn@leg.state.nh.us

District 4/Ward 2: Larry Converse
603-542-2180
lcallcone@aol.com

District 5/Ward 3: Raymond Gagnon
603-542-7286
raymond.gagnon@leg.state.nh.us

District 10/Wards 1, 2, 3: John Cloutier
603-542-6190
jocloutier@comcast.net

Senate – Claremont

District 5: David Pierce
603-271-3067
david.pierce@leg.state.nh.us

Washington, DC

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-2841
<http://shaheen.senate.gov/contact>

Sen. Kelly Ayotte
188 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-3324
<http://www.ayotte.senate.gov/?p=contact>

Rep. Anne Kuster
137 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
phone: 202-225-5206
<http://kuster.house.gov/contact>

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Ayotte Comments On Administration’s Plan To Address Opioid Abuse Epidemic

WASHINGTON, DC-- U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte released the following statement Wednesday regarding the administration’s new plan to combat the heroin and prescription opioid abuse epidemic. The White House’s announcement coincides with Congress’ joint negotiation of bills to address this crisis, including the Senate-passed Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA).

“As I helped introduce and continue to lead efforts to enact the Comprehensive Addition and Recovery Act to combat the heroin and prescription opioid abuse epidemic, I am encouraged by the administration’s efforts focusing on treatment, prevention, and recovery – areas where I have urged my colleagues in both chambers to focus as we work towards final passage,” said Senator Ayotte.

Ayotte has advocated for lifting the cap on access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT), and most recently sent a bipartisan letter to Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Sylvia Burwell urging her to take into account the patient cap called for by the Recovery Enhancement for Addiction Treatment (TREAT) Act when finalizing the MAT rule. In addition, Ayotte has repeatedly urged HHS to not consider for reimbursement purposes questions related to pain management, a current requirement under law that may be contributing to higher rates of prescribing opioid pain relievers. In May, she cosponsored the bipartisan Promoting Responsible Opioid Prescribing Act that would remove pain-related questions from being taken into consideration for reimbursement purposes. She has also written to Acting Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Andy Slavitt to express concerns with the unintended consequences of patient satisfaction surveys as it relates to the opioid abuse crisis.

Governor Hassan’s Statement On NH Attorney General’s Letter To Courts On Background Checks

CONCORD, NH – Governor Maggie Hassan issued the following statement on Attorney General Joseph Foster’s letter to the New Hampshire Judicial Branch last week regarding the State’s authority to make reports to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS):

“We must always work to keep New Hampshire’s citizens safe from harm, and further aligning New Hampshire’s reporting to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System with other states and federal guidelines is another step forward. This builds on our bipartisan work to pass Joshua’s Law, creating a crime of domestic violence, and reporting those offenses to the background check system as well. By ensuring that the federal background check system includes comprehensive information about individuals who are already prohibited by federal law from possessing a weapon, we can help make our communities safer.

“Our bipartisan bill this year reauthorizing the New Hampshire Health Protection Program included a provision that specifically addressed this, authorizing New Hampshire to provide information to the background check system about a very limited group of individuals who should not be sold a firearm due to serious mental illness, such as those who have been found not guilty of a criminal offense by reason of insanity and those whom the court has found pose a danger to themselves or others.

“Almost all people with mental illness represent no danger to their families, their communities, or themselves, and in the instances when a court finds that an individual poses a risk, the greatest danger is often to the individual themselves. New Hampshire saw more than 100 suicides by firearm in 2015, and a study by the Harvard School of Public Health has found that 85 percent of suicide attempts by firearm are fatal.

“In keeping with the federal law, this policy does not apply to the vast majority of people who experience mental illness, and we remain committed to preventing the stigmatization of those with mental illness and helping them access appropriate treatment. At the same time, this common-sense step will help prevent those who are a danger to themselves or others from purchasing firearms, strengthening public safety.”



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Zoning Board Delays Action On Proposed Campsite At Speedway

By Phyllis A, Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--The owners and representatives presented an enthusiastic plan to add a seasonal campsite to the Claremont Speedway property, but some abutters were less than thrilled by the proposal, and the Claremont Zoning Board decided Thursday night to take a trip to visit the property before taking any action. The presentation and discussion went on for about three hours.

The proposal includes constructing 149 sites for RVs, a rec hall, swimming pool and two comfort stations. The plan was a scaled down version of one presented last year that included 200 camping sites. This time around, the owners also presented a professionally designed site that included moving the main entrance and adding fencing to different areas of the property. Overall, they are seeking a variance in a Rural Residential District to develop the seasonal campground that would be a secondary principal use of the property at 282 Thrasher Road. Interim City Planner Mike McCory described the plan as "a substantial proposal". He went on to say that the track has been a "long-standing use of the property, there is an inter-relationship between the two." The campground would be open to the public, not just those who attend races. A 10-foot high visual and acoustic fence would be placed on the Thrasher Road side, and a six-foot high deer fence would be installed along the backside of the campground area. The campground would be open from May to the end of October, the summer season, and November to March 31st, the winter season. No tent sites would be allowed, nor would single overnight stays; rather, only seasonal permits would be issued. The only lighting added would be on the comfort stations.

"We think this is a reasonable use given all that we are planning to do," said Richard Uchida, a Concord attorney speaking on behalf of the owners.

The track is owned by Jim Ambrose, Phil Hayes and Dr. Joseph Purita; Ambrose spoke for the owners, saying they were no "fly by night" operation and that they expected to invest from \$500,000 to \$750,000 in the addition. He said that the track had been in existence since 1947 and that the merger would "give the site new life...We want a new productive use of the land, something that would enhance what is already there." There would be water and sewer connections for each of the sites, but how that much water use would impact abutters was one question that was raised Thursday night, one question to which there was no immediate answer.

Several abutters spoke, raising issues about drainage, noise and traffic in addition to the water use question. Concerns about campfires being only 20 feet away from the track and race cars was another issue that was raised by concerned neighbors.

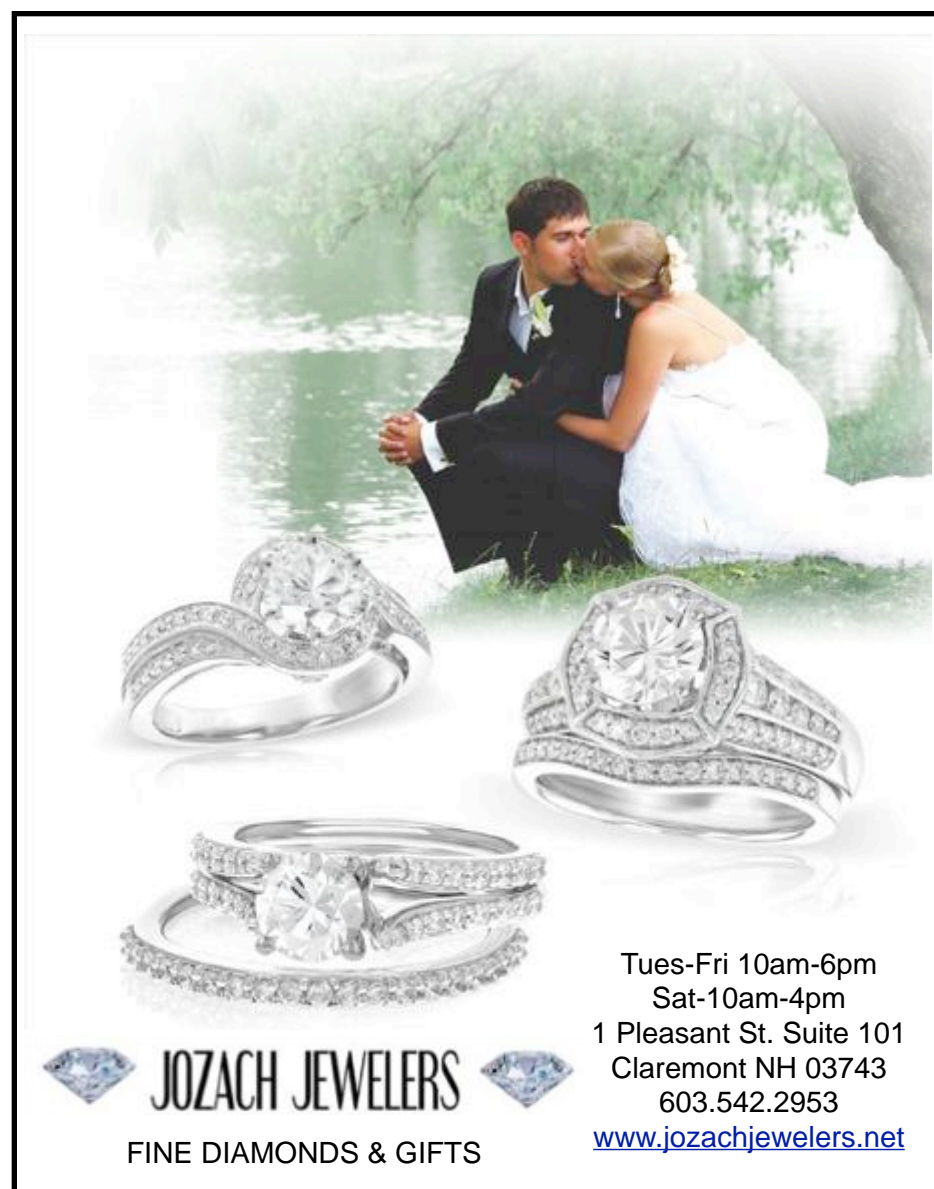
Grace Horvath, concerned about her well drying up with that much additional use in the area, told the board that "I would like to see them tap into the City water." Chuck Egbert, who also lives on Thrasher Road, said there was a lot about the track that was not included in the presentation, including, he said, tons of asphalt buried on the site. He also said the character of the neighborhood had been changed when they cut down trees that had served as a buffer for noise and dust, and he called for a full review of the area before anything is done. Another area resident said that a fence that had already been put in place has been cut in the past, failing to keep out trespassers and trash on abutters' property.

Concerns about the impact on property values were also raised during the public hearing.

Board members decided that they needed more information before they could vote on the requested variance and decided to visit the property as a group on July 25 to get a better perspective on the proposal. Receiving the variance is only one step in a long process; the plan would still have to go before the Planning Board for approval before the project could be started on the 66-and-a-half acre speedway property.

Cool Cats To Hold Huge Yard Sale

CLAREMONT, NH--A huge Yard Sale to benefit the Claremont Cool Cats Special Olympics team will be held July 30 and 31, Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 519 Jarvis Hill Road, Claremont--located directly at the corner of Ainsworth Road & Route 12A. All money raised goes directly to support the local Special Olympics New Hampshire team. Furniture, clothes, household items, building supplies, games, movies, rugs and more. Still accepting donations for items to sell, July 15: 4:00 – 6:00 pm (Friday) and July 23: 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. (Saturday). (No mattresses, stained clothes or electronics please). Questions? Call Beth, 603-558-1712; or Ginny, 603-477-5550.



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Company To Hold Open House July 16

Canam Bridges: Fabricating Products In A Big Way

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--Business is booming and management and employees could not be happier. To help the community better understand just what takes place at the Canam Bridges plant on the River Road in Claremont, the company will be holding an Open House on Saturday, July 16.

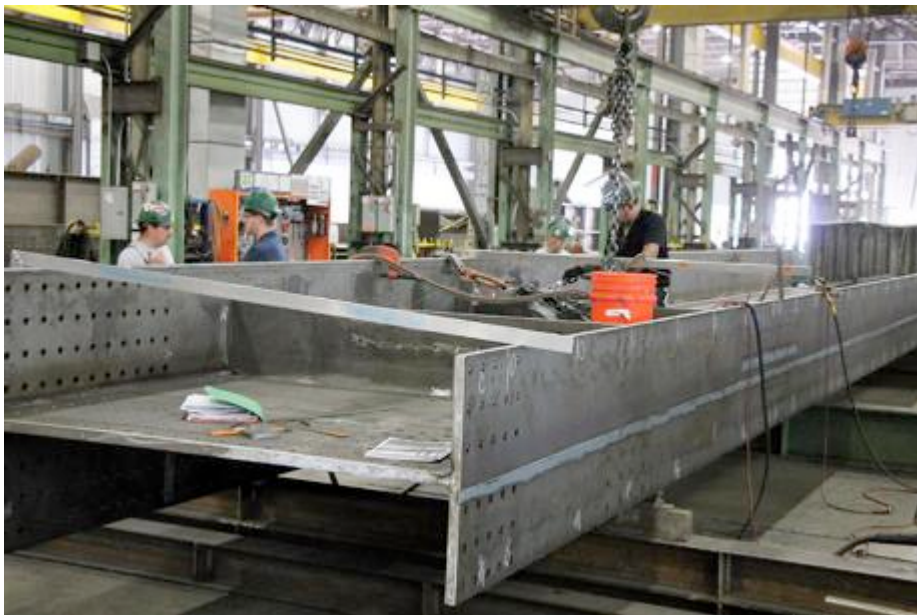
"This is our first Open House and we want to showcase our plant and our employees," Dana Moss, Human Resources Manager for Canam Bridges in Claremont, told the *e-Ticker News*. "Many Claremont residents do not know about us, and many others just see the front of a big building but have no idea how big it is, over 242,000 square feet, or how we actually make the girders. Consider, right here in Claremont, our team is fabricating bridge components that will enable millions of Americans to cross our waterways for the next century or longer. A unique process that we use to 'metalize' our steel gives it a life expectancy of more than 100 years."

The Open House will be held from 9:00 a.m. to noon, and members of the public will have the opportunity to tour the plant and meet staff;

historic bridge part souvenirs will be given out while the supply lasts. Production will be shut down on Saturday. What people will see is that everything is big, from the building to the machines to the hooks, to the chains, to the cranes and the plates of steel that are fabricated into finished products.

Today, Canam employs 158 people, up from 132 a year ago, making it one of the largest

employers in the City. The corporation operates 23 plants in Canada and the United States. Locally, they are currently looking to hire more welders. The process to fabricate steel girders takes place within three bays, going from start to finish. Bay One is where the initial prep work is done. The longest girder fabricated was 110 feet long that was part of a project in New York. A Kinetic machine precision cuts and drills steel plates, guided by engineering designs for a particular project. Work is accurate to 1/10,000, said Moss. Computers guide the machining in an industry where precision is a must. Multiple parts, depending on the project, are welded together to make the piece on order. Once welding is complete, those pieces



Top: Aerial view of the Canam facility in Claremont (file photo); below: fabrication work inside the plant.

ess. The steel is delivered to Canam mostly by train, said Moss, but some is also delivered by truck.

The second bay is where bridge web and flanges are put together; the steel is heated to a certain temperature before the welding can be done.

The third bay is the assembly area, where

have to be cleaned by grinding processes before the next steps.

Sitting behind the building is the holding area for steel parts. When a piece is needed, it's run through a special machine that blasts the steel to remove rust that may have accumulated on it as it sits waiting to be used. Workers skilled in yard work, trade skills and computer skills keep track of that part of the proc-

sections are fitted together; pieces can be three to four inches thick, said Moss. "People who have worked steel come here and learn that they haven't worked bridges," he said, meaning that there is a whole other component to working in this industry that even most steelworkers are not familiar with. Welders and fitters have to be certified and then re-

(Continued on page A9)

Canam, from A8



property, adding more space for the painting process. The company now employs 35 painters just to handle that end of the work.

Prep workers, welders, fitters, grinders and painters, they all have a hand in turning out massive steel products that are shaping the country's landscape.

"Our guys are extremely proud of the work they are doing," said Moss. On July 16, the company hopes the community will visit and take away a sense of that pride and the work that is being done at the Claremont site.

Editor's note: The e-Ticker News extends its appreciation to Canam and Dana Moss for the opportunity to tour the facility on Friday.

Left: A box girder: right, top, steel plates in Bay One, at the beginning of the fabrication process; right bottom: A 70-ton Shuttlelift crane; the driver's seat is on the side.

Photos By Bill Binder



certified on a regular basis. "It takes three to four weeks to train someone," he said. "We have a full-time welding instructor." Indeed, it takes time to learn how to work with something that can end up weighing 70 tons. In addition to beams, Canam makes box girders through which wiring can be passed. Some girders are welded, some are held together by large nuts and bolts, depending on the look that the buyer wants. "It's more of a design thing," said Moss.

Once a piece is completed, it is then moved to the painting area where the surface has to be prepared so that the paint will stick. If too much paint is applied, the extra is removed; if not enough is used, another layer has to be added. It is this specialized "metalizing" or coating process that gives Canam steel a life-span of more than 100 years. Some of Canam's contracts include the Tappan Zee Bridge in New York and the Atlanta Falcons' stadium.

When a piece is ready for shipping, Jewell Transport in Claremont gets the call for most of the jobs, said Moss. Jewell recently moved to a new, larger location at 442 River Road, and Canam has expanded into the old Jewell

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The City of Claremont, New Hampshire is seeking proposals from qualified firms/providers to perform executive search services for the position of City Manager. The City of Claremont will accept statements of qualifications from firms/providers interested in providing the requested services.

Statements of qualifications must be received no later than 2:00 P.M., local time, on July 15, 2016, by the Clerk to the City Council, City Hall, 58 Opera House Square, Claremont, NH 03743.

Proposal documents are available by accessing the City's web site at <http://www.claremontnh.com/government/bids-and-public-requests.aspx> or by contacting the Office of the Clerk to the City Council at 603-542-7002.

Charlene Lovett, Mayor

City of Claremont New Hampshire

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This group of Valley Regional Hospital employees and friends, known as The Valley Girls, got together on Saturday, July 9, to travel to Killington Mtn., in Vermont, to test themselves on the 5K "Dirty Girl Mud Run". L to R—Lori Cook, Kate Derosier, Leslie Minckler, Cindy Largess, Jessica Lawler, Felicia Gilcris, Renee Painter, Shayna Angles (Bill Binder photo).

Claremont American Band Concerts

CLAREMONT, NH--Claremont American Band concerts are being presented weekly at Broad St. Park (weather permitting). Music includes Sousa and R.B. Hall Marches, Military Marches, and favorite classic tunes. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy this free family friendly concert Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. through Aug. 18.

The Claremont American Band is a community band with a long history of 129 years. It is led by Director Ed Evensen and is a Claremont Parks and Recreation's program. The group is made up of students, amateurs and professional musicians. New members are welcome, for info contact Ed Evensen, eevensen@sau60.org, 603-543-0312.

Gagnon Announces Plans To Run For House Of Representatives Ward 3 Seat

CLAREMONT, NH--Raymond Gagnon has announced that he is a candidate for the NH House of Representatives in Ward 3 Claremont. Gagnon, a Claremont native and the present incumbent, stressed his "background in govern-



Raymond Gagnon

ment on the local, county, state and federal level as well as my knowledge of the area and commitment to the citizens of Ward 3 and Claremont." Among the areas of concern he would

like to see addressed is sustainable property tax relief and community/economic development, he said.

Despite being in the minority last term – Gagnon stated that he "was part of a bipartisan effort that successfully provided health care coverage to 50,000 NH residents. Not only did this provide insurance to individuals, it also lessened the financial impact on hospital emergency rooms." Among other accomplishments he cited was "the legislature's seriousness in successfully passing legislation to combat the heroin/opioid epidemic in New Hampshire. This multi-layered legislation addressed a three-tiered approach to combat the epidemic that includes treatment, prevention, and law enforcement."

On the County/Local level, Gagnon cited the County Delegation's "consistent record of zero tax increases to county property owners. The commitment by county legislators to not increase Sullivan County budgets while maintaining social services has been a priority for several funding cycles. Also, as a member of the NH Passenger Rail Authority, I have worked closely as a member of the Claremont Amtrak Committee towards

enhancing Passenger Rail for Claremont and the region."

Gagnon added, "If re-elected, I will continue to be fair, frugal and focused on the challenges facing Claremont and New Hampshire. As someone retired, I have the time to be your

state representative. In November please vote for me, I have a proven record of working for Claremont."

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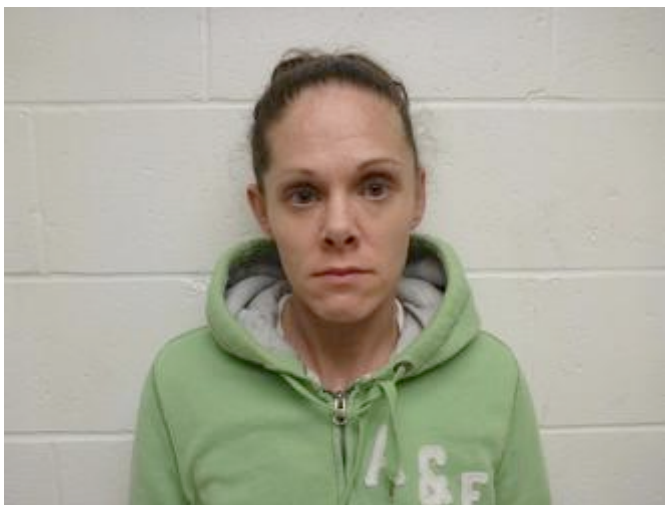
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2nd Arrest Made In Connection With Home Invasion



Sarah Carr

CLAREMONT, NH--Sarah Carr, 35, Claremont, was arrested Thursday by members of State Police, Troop C, with assistance from the Claremont Police Department, in connection with the May 2015 Charlestown home invasion. She is being charged with Conspiracy to Commit Receiving Stolen Property. Carr is the wife of Jeffrey Buzzell, who was arrested earlier this year on a similar charge, and who is being held for lack of cash bail at the Sullivan County House of Corrections.

Carr is being held without bail and was arraigned in the Newport District Court on Friday, July 8.

After a thorough investigation into a May 3, 2015, home invasion in Charlestown, NH, where a 63-year-old woman was tied up and over \$25,000 worth of personal items were

stolen, Buzzell, 41, Claremont, was arrested by New Hampshire State Police at the New Hampshire Probation and Parole Office in Claremont; he was arrested without incident and charged with one count of Receiving Stolen Property in late May; Buzzell was arraigned on in the 5th Circuit Court.

According to the prosecution during Buzzell's arraignment, key information about the case allegedly surfaced during phone calls between the suspect and his wife while he was in prison. That information led authorities to a dirt road in Newport where a number of the stolen items had been buried. "We could establish he was in New York pawning items with two other people," County Attorney Mark Hathaway told WMUR. "What we couldn't establish is the circumstances in which he came in possession of those items."

Investigators from Claremont Police, Charlestown Police, New York City Police Department and New Hampshire Probation and Parole assisted with the investigation.

Anyone with information pertaining to this investigation should call Detective Sergeant Shawn Skahan at Troop C 603-358-3333.

Sidewalk Sales, After Hours Market July 15

CLAREMONT, NH--The merchants in the City Center Marketplace will be participating in a day of sidewalk sales and an After Hours Market on Friday, July 15th.

Participating businesses will be open for their regularly scheduled times but will be staying open until 8:00 p.m. to keep downtown lit up and vibrant into the night. Some businesses will have sidewalk sales, while others may have special events or pricing going on in-store. Stop by to check out the fun.

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e-Ticker Business News

Mt. Ascutney Hospital Named “Most Wired” By American Hospital Association

WINDSOR, VT – Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center has been named one of America’s “Most Wired” hospitals by the American Hospital Association (AHA) in recognition of its successful adoption of information technology (IT) to enhance clinical performance.

The 18th annual Most Wired list appears in the July 2016 issue of *Hospitals & Health Networks* magazine, an AHA publication. All hospitals on the list have demonstrated a strong commitment to using IT resources to improve their operational, financial, and clinical services.

Hospitals on the Most Wired list were chosen based on a survey conducted between January 15 and March 15 of this year. The survey is a leading industry barometer, measuring information technology (IT) use and adoption among hospitals nationwide. More than 34 percent of American hospitals participated in the 2016 survey, which examines how organizations are leveraging IT to improve performance for value-based health care.

“We’re thrilled to receive this designation,” said Patti Strohla, R.N., director of clinical transformation. “MAHHC has invested significantly in IT, because we recognized its potential for helping improve our operations and patient care.”

One of the most important ways that technology is improving care at MAHHC, said Strohla, is through the use of telehealth technology, which MAHHC implemented in January in the hospital’s Emergency Department. “In an emergency situation where we need immediate consultation with a specialist, our telehealth technology allows us to connect with board-certified tele-emergency specialists using a two-way, high-definition video/audio link,” said Strohla. “This allows the specialist to be virtually ‘in the room’ with the patient, diagnosing and directing care. For a small, rural hospital such as ours, a tele-emergency link means we can offer the same level of care that patients would expect from any major hospital...”

In addition to using telehealth in its Emergency Department, the Hospital has also added telepharmacy services for evening and weekend support, and plans to implement te-

leneurology and telestroke care services later this year.

Telehealth services are the most recent in a series of technology investments for MAHHC, which also replaced three disparate electronic health record systems and its paper charts with a single EHR that connects all inpatient and outpatient venues.

“Much of our capital budget over the last six years has been geared toward technology to improve our processes,” said Strohla. “But because we have a limited budget, we have to prioritize services that enhance the patient experience from a care and quality perspective.”

As an example, Strohla spoke about the experience of military veterans in the community who need prosthetics to walk. Many of these veterans are served by MAHHC’s rehabilitation center, but the Veterans Administration often requires them to be transported to a VA hospital for evaluation. Rather than transport patients to the VA facility in an ambulance, the Hospital is now working with the VA to use iPads which will allow VA clinicians to evaluate patients remotely and determine their prosthetic needs.”

“As you see, the opportunities for IT innovation are unlimited”, said Strohla.

The AHA’s Most Wired survey measured hospitals in four specific areas: infrastructure; business and administrative management; clinical quality and safety (inpatient/outpatient hospital); and clinical integration (ambulatory/physician/patient/community). In order to earn Most Wired designation, hospitals were required to excel in all categories.

According to the survey, Most Wired hospitals such as

MAHHC have implemented telehealth technology to expand and improve patient care. They’re also using tools such as patient portals to build stronger relationships with patients.

“Making the Most Wired list is gratifying for MAHHC,” says Gay L. Landstrom, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, Interim Chief Executive Officer of MAHHC, who says the Hospital will continue to invest in IT expansion and upgrades. “Information technology has revolutionized so many aspects of healthcare in the last few decades,” she noted. “New ideas and applications are in the works that will give us even more tools for enhancing our operations and care. It’s an exciting time to be in health care.”



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e-Ticker Business News

Work Underway...

Work is underway at the site of what will be the new North Country Smokehouse facility in the Syd Clarke Industrial Park in Claremont. A long-time Claremont company, North Country was purchased by Les Spécialités Prodal, a Canadian firm that made the decision to expand the operation in Claremont. The new location will triple the capacity of the company's current operation. After the new facility is operational, the current building across from the airport will be used as a mail order center (Bill Binder photo).



Bank Of NH Opens Portsmouth Branch



PORTSMOUTH, NH-- Bank of New Hampshire has joined the Portsmouth community and recently celebrated the grand opening of its new office at 11 Portwalk Place. Joined by representatives of the Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce and community members, Bank of New Hampshire employees hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to formally open the new office.

Bank of New Hampshire, founded in 1831, provides deposit, lending and wealth management products and services to families and businesses throughout New Hampshire. It has 24 banking offices throughout New Hampshire and assets exceeding \$1.3 billion.

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Community Action and Mattering Initiative:

We are holding a meeting to ask Claremont residents about their ideas on prevention of community problems as part of a UNH research project.

Participants will receive \$30 for one hour of their time.

Saturday, July 23, from 11:00-12 at the Fiske Free Library.

Participants must be at least 18 years of age and have lived in Claremont for at least one year.

Only individuals who have not attended a previous group meeting for this project are eligible.

Please email cami.unh@unh.edu or call Vicki Banyard 603-862-2869 to RSVP.

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Act Today To Avoid Financial Regrets Tomorrow

"Regrets? I've had a few." – Frank Sinatra.

Mr. Sinatra, one of the most famous entertainers of the 20th century, did things his way, but he was also familiar with remorse. He's not alone, of course. We all deal with regrets – and financial ones are among the most troublesome.

Here are the leading financial regrets, according to a recent survey by Bankrate.com, along with some suggestions for avoiding them:

- Not saving for retirement early enough – This was the top regret expressed by survey respondents. Saving and investing early for retirement offers you two key benefits. First, the more time you give growth-oriented investments, the greater their growth potential. And second, by saving and investing for retirement early in your career, you will likely need to put away less money each year than you would if you waited until, say, your 40s or 50s. So, if you aren't already doing so, contribute as much as you can afford to your IRA and your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan. And increase your contributions every time your salary rises.
 - Not saving enough for emergency expenses – You can't plan for all expenses. Your furnace might die, your car may need a major repair, you may incur a sizable doctor's bill – the list goes on and on. If you don't have the money available to meet these costs, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments. That's why it's important to maintain an emergency fund, containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, in a liquid, low-risk account.
 - Taking on too much credit card debt – If you don't overuse your credit cards, they can be handy and helpful, in many ways. Try to keep a lid on your credit card debt, keeping in mind that your debt payments reduce the amount of money you have available to invest for your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement.
- Not saving enough for children's education — This may be perhaps the most difficult regret to address – after all, it's not easy to save for your own retirement and simultaneously put money away for your children's college educations. However, if you can afford to save for college, try to do so in as advantageous a manner as possible.
- Buying a bigger house than you can afford – If you tie up too much money in mortgage payments, you will have less to contribute to your various retirement accounts. And while home equity certainly has some value, it generally does not provide you with the same liquidity – and probably not the same potential for growth and income – as an investment portfolio that's appropriate for your needs and risk tolerance. So, think carefully before purchasing that big house – you might be better served by scaling down your home ownership and ramping up your investments.

You can't avoid all the doubts and misgivings you'll encounter at various stages of your life. But if you can reduce those regrets associated with your finances, you could well increase your satisfaction during your retirement years.

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



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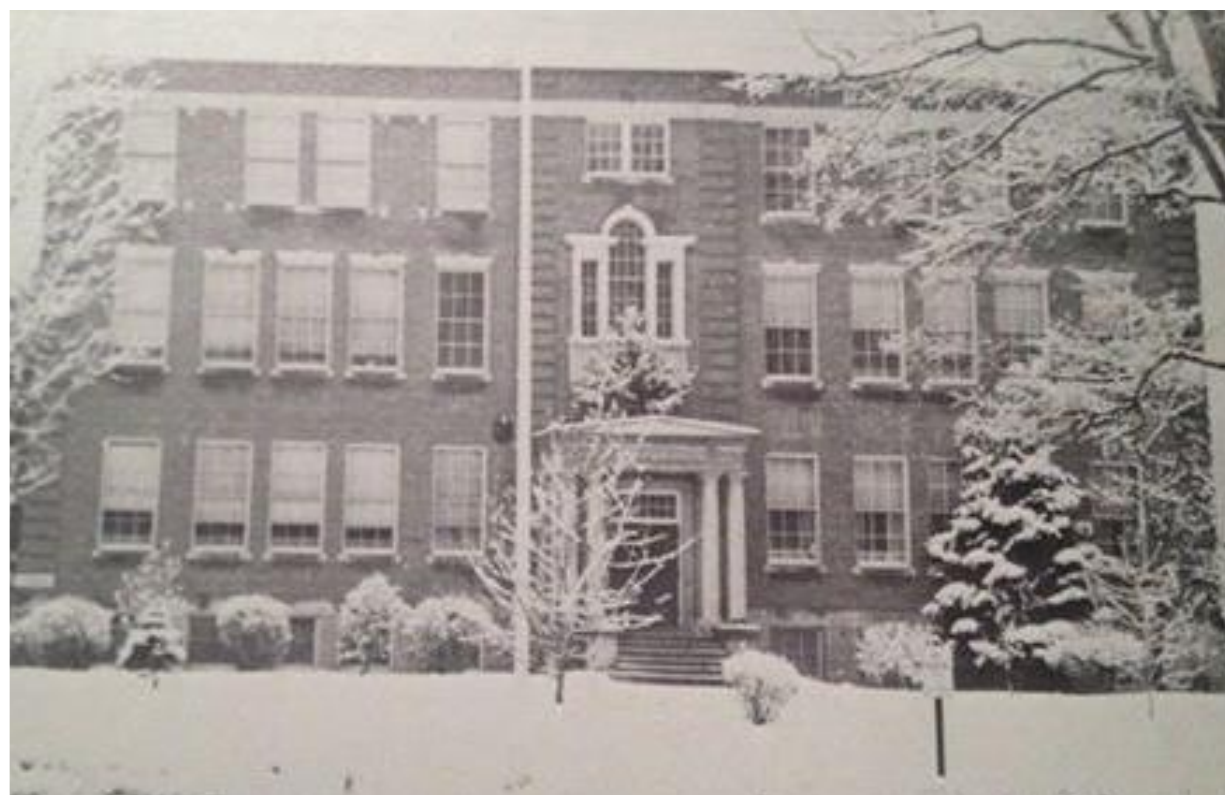
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Farwell's Block, with the Claremont National Bank, and horse-drawn wagons in the front.



Stevens High School on a cold winter day, long before renovations changed its appearance.

Photos courtesy of Merle Boardman

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Acworth Village Store Ice Cream Social

ACWORTH, NH--The Acworth Village Store will hold an Ice Cream Social on July 16 from 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. Make your own sundae with their ice cream toppings bar. Child and adult serving sizes available.

The Acworth Village Store is located at 1068 Rt 123A, South Acworth. This event is a benefit for the Acworth Community owned Store. The Acworth Community Project's mission is to maintain a traditional, reliable grocery and general store, cooperatively owned and governed by its members.

For more information call 603-835-6547, visit their website at <http://www.acworthvillagestore.com/> or email acworthvillagestore@gmail.com.

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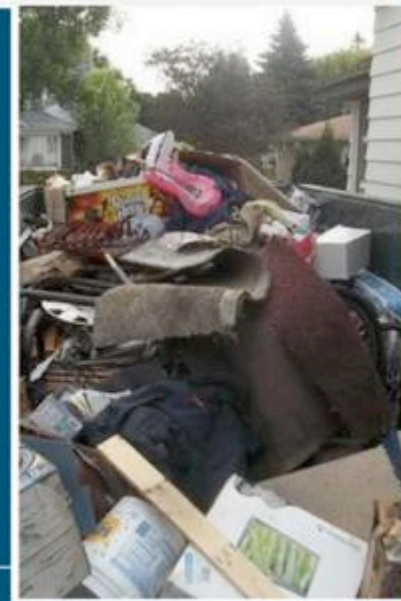
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Program On “The Cougar Returns” In Lempster

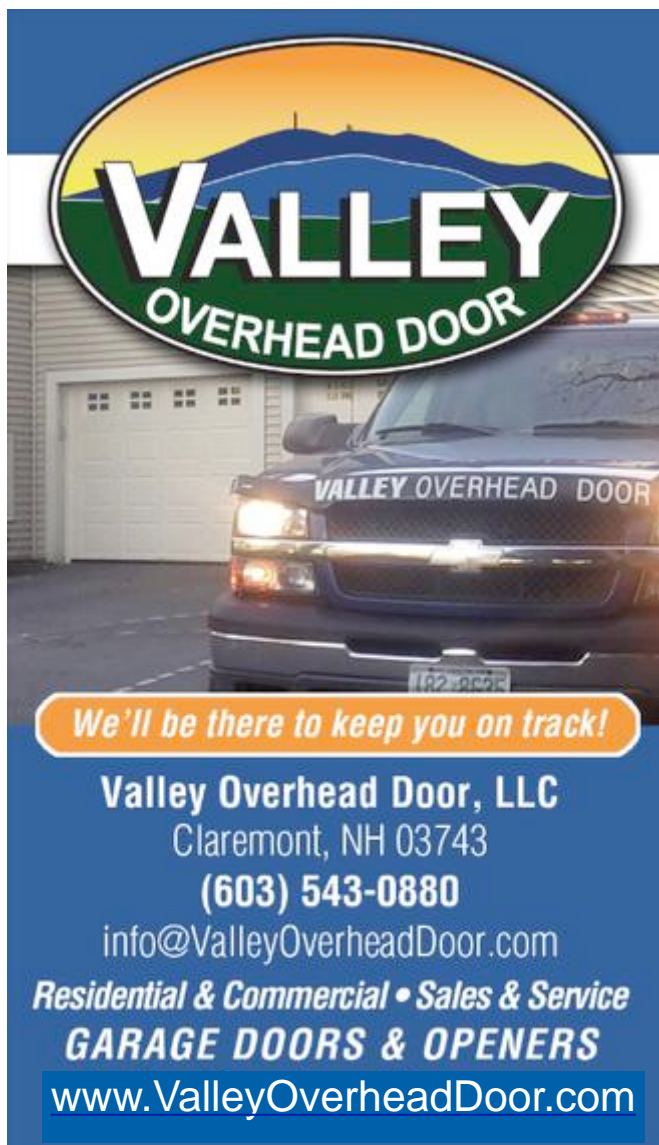
LEMPSTER, NH--Tickets are available for “The Cougar Returns to the East” to be presented by Susan C. Morse, a “nationally known naturalist and winner of the Franklin Fairbanks Award for her lifelong creative and dedicated service to enriching the awareness and understanding of the natural world among residents of New England.”

The program will be held at the Lempster Historical Society, 4 2nd NH TPK on July 16 at 6:00 p.m. Refreshments to follow.

For tickets, please call 863-8180.

Removal Of Silt At Boat Ramp Completed

CLAREMONT, NH--The NH Fish and Game Dept. reported that it closed the Ashley's Landing ramp on July 6th and completed the work in one day to remove the excessive silt.



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It's About Food

By Johnny Navillus



Good Stuff

With chicken breasts being so thick lately, I find that they dry out during cooking. So I began to think about what I could do to change that simply and easily. The following recipe seems to do the trick. You can use any cheese that melts well, but follow the recipe closely the first time. I have served this with roasted carrots and have included instructions for that. Between the peppers and carrots, there is a mix of colors that adds eye appeal.

Two Cheese Chicken Breasts

2 or 3 boneless skinless chicken breasts
1 medium red bell pepper
1 yellow or orange bell pepper
shredded cheddar cheese (or Swiss)
shredded Mozzarella cheese
onion powder
garlic powder
salt pepper
basil
olive oil

Spray a deep baking dish with non-stick spray.

Season both sides of the chicken with the salt, pepper, onion powder, garlic powder and basil.

Cut the peppers into quarters.

Sprinkle the chicken with a little olive oil.

Place the peppers over the chicken out side up alternating the colors.

Place in a 350° oven for about 50 minutes or until an interior temperature of 150° is reached.

Remove the pepper pieces. Sprinkle shredded cheddar cheese over the chicken.

Replace the pepper pieces. Sprinkle with the shredded mozzarella.

Return to the oven for about 10 more minutes. (160°)

Serve with mashed potatoes or rice and roasted carrots.

I can only surmise that the peppers keep the moisture in the chicken. They come out very moist and flavorful.

Roasted Carrots

Clean and slice carrots in half lengthwise.

Spray a cooking dish.

Place carrots in the dish. Season with salt and pepper. Onion powder and garlic powder go well on these, too. Anything else you want to add, be my guest. Sprinkle a little olive oil or Maple Syrup over the carrots. Bake at 350° for about an hour.

These are fantastic leftover. Especially if you opted for the Maple Syrup.

Play with your food. It pays off.

Write to Johnny at etickernews@gmail.com.

Scholarship Awarded In Memory Of Former Nurse

SPRINGFIELD, VT--Springfield Hospital recently awarded the 11th annual Eileen Austin Neal, RN, Nursing Scholarship of \$1,000 to Lindsay Wyman of Charlestown, NH, to attend the University of Rhode Island. Wilson, who attended Fall Mountain Regional High School, believes that as a nurse she "would be making a direct, positive impact in the lives of others." In her application, she wrote that nursing is "one of the most meaningful professions one can seek."

Eileen Austin Neal was a registered nurse at Springfield Hospital for 64 years, retiring in 2005. She was the first recipient of the Hospital's George F. Leland Community Health Award in 2003. In 2004, the hospital established the Eileen Austin Neal Spirit of Nursing Award, given to a staff nurse, in recognition of her many years of dedicated service.

Upon her death in February 2006, at the request of Neal's family, Springfield Hospital established the nursing scholarship fund in her name with the gifts received in her memory.

"Springfield Hospital is a better place for Eileen having worked here," said Larry Kraft, Director of Development. "This scholarship continues her positive influence on both nursing and our community."

On the morning of July 8, Sunapee Police Officers conducted a bicycle safety class for the Little Lakers Summer Camp at the Elementary School playground. Among the topics discussed were the importance of wearing safety gear, especially helmets,

and also the "rules of the road". Here, Sgt. Timothy Puchtler provides some safety instruction (Courtesy photo).



Roger Neal, husband of the late Eileen Austin Neal, RN, presents scholarship award to Lindsay Wyman at Springfield Hospital (Courtesy photo).



Giving to those who give back.

Congratulations to the 2016 Claremont Savings Bank Foundation grant recipients, whose dedication to the communities we serve inspires us every day.

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Meals & Wheels of Greater Springfield
New England Classical Academy
New London Hospital Association
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Since 2003, the Claremont Savings Bank Foundation has donated more than \$928,000 to hundreds of not-for-profit organizations. To learn more about our foundation, visit claremontsavings.com/foundation.



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Armchair Tour of Claremont Authors

CLAREMONT, NH--The Fiske Free Library will present An Armchair Walking and Driving Tour of the Homes and Lives of Claremont Authors on Thursday, July 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gilmore Room of the Fiske Free Library.

Can you name five authors from Claremont? How about 10? How about 25? Do you know Alpheus Henry Snow? Thomas McLaughlin? Harriet Farley Donlevy? Barbara N. Galpin? Nelson Bryant? Joseph D. Steinfield? Constance Woolson? Linda Clark McGoldrick? These people are Claremont authors, one and all.

The Fiske Free Library's popular Armchair Tour returns following its introduction in 2014. Colin Sanborn, Circulation Librarian at the library, has created a whole new tour. Serving as your "tour guide", Sanborn will lead you on a "walking and driving" tour around Claremont, while you sit in comfort in the Gilmore Room of the Fiske Free Library. Sanborn will introduce you to noted legal authority Alpheus H. Snow, civil rights activist George K. Hunton, and popular late 19th century novelist Constance Woolson. He will also introduce you to poets, mystery writers, and outdoors writers. These and others on the tour are all authors who were born, grew-up, and/or lived and worked here in Claremont.

Sanborn noted that he has been compiling a bibliography of Claremont authors and Claremont-related books since the early '90's. "The bibliography is titled "Reading My Neighbors" and there are somewhere in the vicinity of 75-plus documented authors from Claremont in the bibliography" he said.

"They represent a wide spectrum of literature from fiction to non-fiction." Some of the authors were very prolific while others have one or two works to their credit. A second smaller bibliography, "Reading Claremont", deals with books written about Claremont. Sanborn notes, "There are two dozen plus authors who have written about people, places, and events in Claremont. This list includes Sharon Dean's *Homeward Bound* and Anne Boyd Rioux's *Portrait of a Lady Novelist*, both biographies of Constance Fenimore Woolson. Woolson was once one of the most popular authors of the late 19th century, rivaling her close friend and novelist Henry James. She went into near obscurity in the mid 20th century but has found

renewed recognition and respect in the last decade. There is Cozy Baker's *Through the Kaleidoscope* about Claremont's Charles Busch and other kaleidoscope makers." Sanborn added, "The "Reading Claremont" bibliography offers a wide array of books on the subject of Claremont. The list ranges from Jackie O'Neil's *Guide to Owning an Irish Setter* with its history of the breed, including the first Irish Setters in this country being right here in Claremont to Robert McCullough's *The Landscape of Community: A History of Communal Forests in New England* on the topic of town

forests, including Claremont's Moody Park, and John Toland book *In Mortal Combat* on Rocco Zullo and his unit in the Korean War."

The tour, whether you join our "armchair" tour or you follow later on your own, will provide a new and interesting look at Claremont, our notable sons and daughters, and our literary heritage.

The Friends of the Fiske Free Library will provide some light refreshments following the "walk".

The tour is free and open to the public.

4th Annual Kelly Robarge Benefit Ride...

On June 26th, the 4th Annual Kelly Robarge Benefit ride was held. Organizers and family members would like to thank Granite State Harley for letting them use the space for the start of the ride and the registration, the Live Free or Die Riders for all their support and assisting with



the registration and the BBQ and the use of their club house to hold the BBQ after the ride, Sullivan County Sheriff Department for leading them on the ride, and the Lebanon, Canaan, New London and Newport Police Departments for making sure that they were able to pass safely and stay in the group. Also, thank you to these local businesses that donated to the raffle: Dusty's Café, Out of the Ordinary, Newport Pizza Chef, KJ'S Café, Noise R' Us, and the Polish Americans Citizens Club, and Birneys for the donation of the water. Thank you to all the businesses that let them hang up the flyers. To the community members, Raycene Cogean and Paula Rowell, for the items that they donated. Thank you to Raycene Cogean, Krysta Gay and Kelley Jennings for volunteering their time. To all the riders and passengers that took the time out to make this a memorable event and show the care and compassion in the community. They Look forward to the amazing support again next year for the 5th Annual Kelly Robarge Ride, with a tentative date of Sunday, June 25, 2017. This year organizers raised \$1,000 which was donated to Turning Points Network, the local Domestic Violence Prevention Center. The check was presented by Ron Prouty, Kelly's brother, and members of the fundraiser sponsors, the Live Free or Die Riders. L to R--Scott Morse, President of the Live Free or Die Riders, Colynda Caramore, Treasurer of LFoDR, Deb Mozden of Turning Points Network, Ron Prouty, Kelly's brother, Krysta Gay, fundraiser volunteer (Bill Binder photo).

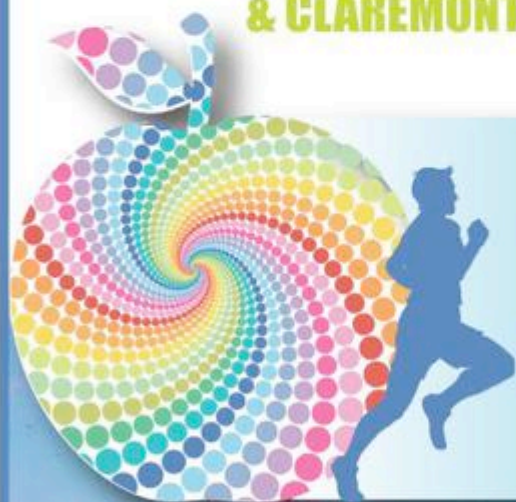
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Claremont Confidential

By Les St.Pierre



Random Thoughts

Just thought I'd pen a few thoughts after suffering through scorching heat at the beginning of the week and a cooling, rainy weekend the latter portion of the seven-day experience. Nothing like taking a few moments to relieve the chest and head of pent-up emotions. Here goes:

Talk about eyesores! What in the world is going on, or should I say not going on, at the former Goodwin Community Center, 130 Broad Street. What once was an open door of non-stop youth and adult activity has now become a vacant, unkempt piece of land showing absolutely no motion of any kind with a built-up growth of weeds not far from hiding the exterior of the building. It is quite evident a paint job is needed as well. Lord knows what the inside of the building looks like, never mind the condition of the former indoor pool and Anthony Zotto Gymnasium. When the property was purchased a few months ago by a Springfield, Vt. resident for \$60,000, it was learned the new owner did not know what he was going to do with it other than to have some office space installed. To date, absolutely nothing has been done. At least, that is what is apparent to the naked eye. In the meantime, those postal workers next door and those attending church services and other activities at the Trinity Episcopal Church on the other side of the lot, as well as everyday drivers heading out to Washington Street, have to bear the sad-looking piece of uncared for terrain right in the heart of Claremont. It's not easy to miss, and those going to Claremont's Farmers Market and to the evening band concerts across the street are picking up on that lack of care. Tony Zotto must be rolling over in his grave about now, and it wouldn't surprise me if Ray Bernard and Scott Hausler would fight back tears at the sight of the their former domain. All three were former directors at the GCC and they, with the aid of city employees, always had that spot welcoming Claremont's citizens. That can't be said now. Sad!



The former Goodwin Community Center property on Broad Street is sorely in need of some attention since being sold at auction earlier this year (Les St.Pierre photo).

I had the opportunity to help the Knights of Columbus contribute to the food and drink available at Claremont's fantastic Fourth of July celebration at Monadnock Park. This was the K of C's first go at providing refreshments to the gathering throng prior to the lighting of fireworks in quite some time, if ever, and the Knights pulled it off in fine fashion. Thanks to the preparatory work furnished by the council's Dale Giles and Glenn Houle, who headed up the vending opportunity, Claremont's Catholic organization more than held up its own. There were a few chinks in the armor, so to speak, but nothing to keep the club from coming back again next year. Popcorn lovers had to wait a while at one point due to a power failure to the popcorn-making machine. Workers Pete Marek, Gary and Debbie Bedard, Denny Francis, Jean Guy Jacques, Kevin Cameron, Dan Croteau, and myself were kept busy doling out hot dogs, water, soda, popcorn, hamburgers and cheeseburgers, and potato chips throughout the late afternoon and well into the eve-

ning. On one side of us were long lines to the fried dough booth and on the other side was a rush for Mountainview Fudge. Further on down the line was the Common Man booth with pulled pork being the topic of conversation. What is it hungry and thirsty patrons had to do without? The top three non-available, but most in desire, products were Mountain Dew, French fries and ice cream. Beggars can't be choosers, but they certainly did have their say in what they missed the most.

For those of you who missed out on the Stevens High School graduation ceremonies I, as the keynote speaker that evening, made mention of Richard "Squeak" Sanderson in my talk. "Squeak", if you will recall, died earlier this year. I mentioned him, along with Tony Zotto (the same Tony Zotto mentioned in paragraph two) and Zeke and Muriel Mathews as being prominent in my life in that they helped keep me stay on the right side of the law and off the streets in my formative years. It would have

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been quite easy to have gone astray coming from a broken home, but these were the people who guided me through life, mainly through the excellent recreational opportunities available in Claremont. I still, after all these years, can recall "Squeak" showing me how to field a ground ball and Zotto always welcoming me into the Goodwin Community Center, even if just to talk. I cannot tell you the number of trips I made to the Mathews house on the Charlestown Road to play whiffle ball and, at times, stay for a home-cooked meal. Equally as often were trips in the back of Zeke's pickup truck down to Monadnock Park to ballgames. Zeke was a home plate umpire for the youth baseball program, and Muriel was a constant fixture in the concession booth. Only Muriel remains now, living out of town. Pictured is "Squeak" with a GCC-sponsored traveling All-Star basketball team. I believe the picture was taken in the winter of 1959-60.



Ducks at Crescent Lake in Acworth enjoy a family outing on a hot summer day (Phyllis A. Muzeroll photo).



Pictured is "Squeak" Sanderson with a Goodwin Community Center-sponsored traveling All-Star basketball team. Front Row (left to right): John Miner, Ron Revoir, Jerry LaBounty, Ron Joyce, Les St.Pierre. Back Row (left to right): Steve Lewko, Charlie Hoskiewicz, Brian Trottier, Tom Franklin, Greg Preston, Richard "Squeak" Sanderson (Courtesy photo).

Kiwanis Club To Donate \$5,000 To Arrowhead

CLAREMONT, NH--The Claremont Kiwanis Club, founded in 1950 and the oldest local charitable club in our region, has announced that it will make a substantial donation to help maintain the Arrowhead Recreational Area. During the winter, Arrowhead provides children with the opportunity to ski, tube, and snow board for a nominal fee. Originally, Arrowhead Recreational Park was sponsored in its entirety by the Claremont Kiwanis. Unfortunately over the years, due to excessive insurance costs, the Kiwanians had to stop funding the park, said club president Bill Schroeter.

One night every year the Kiwanis Club provides all of the kids a free admission to Arrowhead.

Arrowhead president Stan Woodman and Schroeter announced that the Kiwanis Club of Claremont will donate \$5,000 to aid continued operations at the recreation site; the check will be presented Thursday evening.

The Kiwanis Club of Claremont is a 100% charitable organization that serves the children of our community, said Schroeter.

If you have an interest in Kiwanis, please call 603-543-0562. For more information about the Arrowhead Recreation Area, please call 603-542-2992.

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