

Monday, January 4th. YCN News:

Well those heading back to work or school this morning after their Holiday breaks were treated to some frigid temperatures - in fact, the coldest of the year! {B} Thermometers maxed out in the mid to upper 20s shortly after midnight this morning, but quickly fell to a dismal 12 degrees by sunrise. Making matters worse out there were consistent winds of between 10 and 15 mph, creating wind chills - or how cold it *actually* feels - to well below zero. Elementary schools in both Sunapee and Claremont combated these conditions by keeping students indoors during recess, while local ski resorts like Ragged and Mount Sunapee remained open for those daring enough to hit the slopes. Freezing temperatures are being welcomed by some though, as local ponds and lakes haven't yet generated enough ice to support bob houses for ice fishing. Temperatures have been in the single digits now for the past couple hours, and will reach a dismal low of just three degrees later tonight.

And now a sad story out of Grantham as a single-car accident on Interstate 89 Saturday evening left a Massachusetts man dead and two passengers injured.{B} According to New Hampshire State Police, the accident occurred shortly after 8 p.m. Saturday night when a 2003 Nissan Murano veered into the center median before striking several trees and rolling over. Police say it took emergency crews more than an hour to extricate the victims from the SUV near mile-marker 42 on the southbound side of the highway. The driver - 24-year-old Eliecharmiche Alvarado of Rockland, Massachusetts - was pronounced dead at the scene, while two passengers were transported to nearby Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center for treatment. An unidentified female was airlifted to the hospital with multiple injuries, and a child who was properly fastened in a car seat was taken to the hospital via ambulance with what's described as minor injuries. The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

Shifting to Vermont news now, a Bellows Falls woman was arrested on multiple charges Saturday after a months-long investigation into the distribution of illegal drugs in the area. According to Bellows Falls Police, 53-year-old Elizabeth McAllister was arrested at her Front Street residence without incident Saturday after a search warrant uncovered multiple drugs which appeared set for distribution. Among other drugs, authorities discovered heroin, oxycodone, oxycontin, amphetamines, methadone, mushrooms and more than two ounces of marijuana during their search, resulting in a lengthy list of charges. According to police, a large amount of the prescription pills found were illegally packaged for re-sale. Police say they began investigating McAllister over the summer to combat a growing drug problem in the Bellows Falls area, and that additional arrests could be made in the coming days. McAllister is slated to be arraigned in Windham County Superior Court later this week.

Switching to a different note tonight, we here at YCN are very much fans of the arts, which provide so much creativity and innovation to our region. With that in mind, this past weekend, we attended a concert by Newbury harpist Katelyn Croft, to benefit the purchase of a Concert Grand Pedal Harp which she will need when she graduates from

Eastman School of Music in Rochester to further her professional career. Katelyn is currently a Junior at the university and this weekend she played 15 selections to a crowd of over 50.

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Katelyn is one of only 10 Harp students at the exclusive Eastman school of Music. She is continuing her fundraising efforts for this instrument and has a FB page set up for anyone interested in helping with this purchase which costs \$33k.

YCN News: if you're a photographer in the area, amateur or professional, we've got a story you won't want to miss.

Well it was a scary scene at Ragged Mountain in nearby Danbury on Saturday as an 11-year-old Nashua boy was injured after falling off one of the resort's chairlifts. {B} According to authorities, the boy was riding up the lift with his father and brother shortly before 3:30 Saturday afternoon when he fell some 20-feet onto a closed trail. The boy, identified as Cameron Prangley, slipped while trying to pull down the safety bar and was briefly held up by his father Doug before losing his grip. Ski patrols weren't notified of the accident until the lift reached the top of the mountain. A DART helicopter was initially dispatched to the scene but was called off before arriving. The boy was transported to a nearby hospital via ambulance and is believed to have suffered a concussion as well as several bumps and bruises. State inspectors deemed the lift safe for operation on Sunday, though Ragged Mountain is continuing to investigate the incident.

An interesting story out of Windsor Vermont now as the Windsor Police Department is covering their own tracks after they reportedly deleted a police report about an officer-involved bar fight.

{B} The Valley News conducted an investigative report which recently uncovered that a police report about a bar fight that occurred in the Windsor Station Restaurant last year involving an officer, could no longer be found. The Valley's report shows that the incident occurred on December 5th 2014 and involved an altercation between William Henne of Windsor, a resident known for minor offenses with police, and officer Ryan Palmer, who had shot a White River Junction man three weeks prior during a drug sting. Reports of the cause of the fight were hazy at first but ultimately reached the state's Attorney General's Office which determined that the evidence showed that Palmer was responsible. An initial police report filed by Windsor Police saying that an officer assaulted a civilian was soon deleted after it was released. This recent discovery has questioned the necessity of a further investigation into the incident.

Well this next story goes out to those amateur photographers and hobbyists in the area as the town of New London is asking for a little help in designing the cover of its 2015 Annual Report. {B} Whether it's a sunrise on Little Lake Sunapee or a scenic winter shot

on the campus of Colby-Sawyer College, town officials are urging residents to submit their best photos by this coming Friday. There's no prize for winning - other than seeing your work on the cover of the town report - but it's a great opportunity to see one of your photos published for all to see. As for rules, there really isn't much other than the photo must have been taken in New London within the past year. Photos should be at least 300 Dots Per Inch, and include the name, address, phone number and email address of the photographer. Submissions can be dropped off in person at Whipple Hall, or mailed to the address shown below. Good luck, and get shooting!

And finally tonight, looking ahead in Campaign 2016, the one and only Donald Trump will be in Claremont tomorrow. {B} The Republican presidential front runner will be visiting Stevens High School at 7:00 PM, with doors opening as early as 5:00. Event organizers are reminding attendees to arrive as early as they can to make sure they have entrance into the venue. Donald Trump has been the frontrunner in the Republican party since shortly after he announced and although slipping slightly in the polls, has maintained a favorable rating in the double digits. Trump is taking this week to tour New England, having made a stop today in Lowell, Massachusetts at 7:00 and will be visiting Burlington Vermont this Thursday, also at 7:00. YCN News will be at tomorrow's Claremont visit and will bring you a look at his time in town on Wednesday night's news so tune in then.

Tuesday January 5th. YCN News:

We begin tonight across the Connecticut River in Westminster, Vermont where State Police arrested a 22-year-old New York man early this morning found traveling at more than 100 mph on a local highway. According to the police report, troopers observed the vehicle shortly after 2:30 this morning traveling in the northbound lane of Interstate 91 near mile marker 26. The vehicle was clocked at 103 mph by Trooper Ryan Wood, leading to the immediate arrest of the driver identified as Dillon Balemian of Rockville Centre, New York. Conditions on the highway were dry at the time of the traffic stop though temperatures were below zero degrees. Balemian was transported to the Rockingham State Police Barracks without incident where he was processed and released on charges of driving at excessive speeds. Balemian is scheduled to be arraigned in Windham County Superior Court on Feb. 16.

In a similar story just hours earlier, Vermont State Police were involved in a brief chase when a driver clocked traveling 31 mph over the speed limit failed to initially pull over for officers. According to the press release, troopers observed a vehicle traveling at 86 mph in a 55 zone shortly after 12:30 yesterday morning near mile marker 70 in the northbound lane of Interstate 91 in Hartford. The driver, later identified as 36-year-old Simon Chauchard of Hanover, ignored trooper's initial requests to pull over, prompting officers from the Hartford and Norwich Police Departments to join the pursuit. The vehicle eventually stopped some three miles after troopers made initial contact, where Chauchard was then arrested without incident. The man was transported to the Hartford

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Police Department for processing, and is slated to be arraigned in the Windsor Superior Court Criminal Division on March 1.

The Newport Select board voted last night to accept and expend \$30,000 dollars in grant money to hire an intelligence liaison officer to work within the town's police department. The grant was issued by the New Hampshire Department of Safety as part of its Intelligence Liaison Officer Program. The nationwide program uses liaison officers located in all 50 states to facilitate the flow of information from local to federal agencies. The Granite State has several liaison officers located in different geographical regions, with the Newport officer to cover the Western portion of the state. Grant money will be used to cover the salary and benefits of the person hired, who will work 24 hours a week gathering intelligence to return to Concord. The position will run through August on a trial basis, but could be renewed after the fact if funding is continued. The town itself will not be responsible to cover any expense.

Just like last night, we'll continue a look at local arts. The Center for the Arts in New London hosted its monthly "First Friday" event with an Open Mic Night at Whipple Hall. MC'ed by Joe Furlong, 10 acts were featured with headliner Carl Beverly and other local talent including Kathy Lowe and Janie Solomon. Let's take a look.

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Looks like a great event and we'll have to keep our eyes peeled for the next one.

YCN News: Donald Trump is coming tonight! We'll take a look at how it's affecting Claremont.

A local and well-known prosecutor has been named to the position of state trial court judge in an announcement by Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin. Michael Kainen, who is known as Windsor County's top prosecutor was one of four lawyers appointed to the position, which was announced yesterday by the Governor's office. One of Kainen's top deputies will assume his role once he steps into the court judge position, which he will be taking to fill the spot of Judge John Wesley. Three of the four judge appointments were made to fill vacancies by the retirement of current judges and a fourth was made to help address increasing caseloads related to child protection and opiate-abuse across Vermont. Governor Shumlin, in a press release, said of Kainen that, "his legal knowledge, people skills, and commitment to improving Vermont's legal system make him a valued addition to the Vermont bench." Michael and his wife are residents of Hartford Vermont where they have three children.

Solar news now out of Strafford Vermont which should sound familiar to some, as this is a story that has been developing for quite some time now. The public had a final chance

yesterday to voice their comments and concerns about a solar farm proposed at the site of the former Elizabeth Copper Mine, which would supply almost 5 megawatts of power. The Valley News reports that residents of Strafford, including those who live near the plot where the site would be built, were vocal about safety concerns, noise pollution, property values of surrounding properties, and the financing of the site. However, not all feedback to the solar site was negative, as one resident cited that the mine has historically been a benefit to the town and with a solar site on its former location would allow it to keep giving. The meeting, held in Barrett Memorial Hall, was a final step in moving the project ahead, which is pending approval from the Vermont Public Service Board, who helped facilitate last night's meeting. The application deadline for the project is slated for next Monday.

Well the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department is about to experience that new-car smell after permission was granted yesterday to purchase seven new Chevy Impala cruisers. The 2016 cruisers are identical to the vehicles currently being used by the department, but three years newer, meaning radio and other equipment will be easily transferable to the new cars. Six of the seven cruisers will cost the county slightly below \$20,000 dollars each, with the seventh - an unmarked vehicle to be driven by Sheriff John Simonds - coming in at a little over \$19,000 dollars. The new cruisers will be delivered to the department in July, with the old vehicles to be traded in at approximately \$4,500 dollars a pop. It's estimated the department's current fleet will have amounted somewhere around 90,000 miles by the time they're traded in. The Sheriff's proposal was presented to the Sullivan County Commissioners, and supported by the Executive Finance Committee of the County Delegation yesterday afternoon.

And as we teased yesterday, preparations are commencing for Donald Trump to speak in Claremont tonight at 7:00. The Republican front runner will speaking at Stevens High School, with doors opening to the public at 5:00. At around 1:00 PM this afternoon, media outlets from not only our region and the state, but nationally, were in the gymnasium setting up for Trump's visit. National broadcasters like CNN, NBC, and CBS were present with satellite trucks as well as statewide stations like WMUR News 9 from Manchester and Fox 44 from Burlington. The road behind Stevens High School has been temporarily closed as to allow for the satellite trucks to park and broadcast so traffic must seek a different route. Stevens High School students have been asked to leave school grounds after the final bell rings, as the Secret Service will be conducting a sweep of the building. YCN News is all set up and will be at tonight's speech, from which we will bring you highlights in tomorrow night's news.

Wednesday, January 6th. YCN News:

Well as we predicted, it was nothing short of a packed house last night in Stevens High School in Claremont, as Donald J. Trump held a campaign rally. Supporters and spectators alike travelled from all over the region and both states to see the Republican front runner rally the crowd, with the audience numbering well over 1000. Spectators braved the cold to wait nearly 2 hours to enter the gymnasium. YCN News was there,

among national and even international television stations, and bring you these excerpts from his hour long speech.

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Having visited Lowell Massachusetts on Monday and Claremont yesterday, Trump will be in Burlington Vermont on Thursday, ahead of February's presidential primary in New Hampshire. Were you there last night? Let us know what you thought of his speech in the comments section of this story on our website.

Now also last night at Trump's rally, prior to him speaking, supporters heard from a new face to the Trump campaign, although he's a not-so-new face to fans of fellow candidate Ted Cruz. On Monday, the Trump campaign office released the announcement that Andrew Hemingway, a known New Hampshire activist and entrepreneur, formerly a supporter of Ted Cruz, has endorsed Donald Trump. He was present at last night's Claremont rally and spoke of the front runner, praising him for his know-how and financial ability to win over the Granite State. Hemingway had previously served as the state director for Newt Gingrich's 2012 presidential run and is the former chair of the New Hampshire Republican Liberty Caucus. He will act as co-chair of the campaign in New Hampshire and will thus play a key role in helping sway Granite State voters to put a checkmark next to Donald Trump's name come primary time.

Turning to Upper Valley news now, police in Lebanon showed they're more than just worried about making arrests when it comes to the fight against heroin, as the department issued a warning to users yesterday in regards to a particularly lethal strain. The message - posted on the department's website and Facebook page - cited a recent report by the Keene Police Department on a bad batch of heroin being sold under the name "Hollywood." Police say the batch is believed to be the cause of at least one non-fatal incident in Keene, and eight deaths over in Massachusetts. According to the *Keene Sentinel*, the batch is believed to have been laced with fentanyl, making the drug much more powerful than normal. Lebanon Police did not say in the message whether the particular batch of heroin has been located in the city itself, though Vermont State Police say it was responsible for at least one overdose death up in Newport.

Sticking with news out of Lebanon, students and faculty at Lebanon Middle School had to deal with more than just frigid temperatures outside as a breakdown of one of the school's two boilers made for some chilly conditions indoors as well. According to the *Valley News*, the larger of the two pellet boilers broke down early yesterday morning, causing temperatures in parts of the building to drop near 60 degrees. The building was slow to warm up during the morning and school day, but by 5 p.m. had reached temperatures between 68 and 74 degrees. Parts to repair the boiler arrived at the school yesterday evening, and the school district's Director of Facilities told the paper he expects the boiler to be back up and running by the weekend. The school district has already okayed the replacement of the control system that runs both boilers, as the equipment has been problematic since the school opened in 2012.

YCN News: police are looking for yet another bank robber.

Over in Vermont, in an all too familiar story authorities are once again on the lookout for a man accused of robbing a local bank. According to Woodstock Police, a white male in his 20s entered the People's United Bank on the Green shortly after 3 p.m. Monday afternoon, and demanded money from a teller. Police say no weapon was revealed, but the teller was handed a note - though it was not revealed what specifically was written. The man left with an undisclosed amount of money and fled in an unknown direction. The robbery is the most recent in a handful of similar incidents in the area over the past couple of months, though the culprit in those instances - 31-year-old Matthew Martin of Weathersfield, Vermont - was ordered held without bail during the final days of 2015. Martin is accused of robbing banks in both Charlestown, New Hampshire and Ludlow, Vermont, and has already been convicted of several robberies in Springfield.

Staying in the Green Mountain State, residents of Brattleboro will have to hold onto their trash a little bit longer after the select board voted last night to reduce garbage collection to every other week. This coming after a recent finding that Triple T Trucking Incorporated, the town's garbage collector, has picked up only half the previous amount of trash from residents. Brattleboro residents have reduced the amount of trash they leave on the curb from around 1000 tons to a little bit less than 500, meaning that the town will now save a pretty penny on garbage collection with the pickups happening every other week. The new plan is set to begin in July, allowing about six months to test the efficiency of the new pickup schedule, which only affects the frequency of the pickups, not the type of the material. Town Manager Peter Elwell told the Select board and members of the public that the town would revert to its weekly pickup plan if this one did not work out.

Now to a story out of Thetford Vermont, town officials are mulling the development of an outdoors therapy program, proposed for Gove Hill Road. The Valley News reports that the program is being proposed by two brothers from Brownsville Vermont and Warren Vermont, who run Confluence Behavioral Health, a Brownsville-based company. The two are planning to use a plot of land on Gove Hill Road that was previously used by the American Baptist Churches of Vermont and New Hampshire to hold wilderness retreats for young adults needing relief from any variety of ailments, especially mental illness. On Tuesday, a public forum, the second of its kind on the issue, was held where around 30 residents voiced opinions on the site, voicing concerns about the safety of the neighborhood with certain types of patients coming to area. The brothers plan to revive the previous use of the land and have since started the process of purchasing the site. The Thetford Development Review Board will meet again next Tuesday to discuss the plan further.

And finally tonight, staying in Vermont once more, the proposed prison in Bellows Falls, a source of contention, may not be going ahead after all. This announcement coming as

an analysis of the building site is currently underway, which was revealed at Tuesday's Rockingham Select board meeting. The Eagle Times reports that Francis Walsh, the director of the Rockingham/Bellows Falls economic development office stated that the findings of a structural analysis of the build site for the proposed prison, which would be a \$23 million dollar project and would house pre-trial detainees, might deem the site unsuitable. The plan would renovate and convert the former Liberty Paper Company building to a detention center. Walsh also updated the Select board on two other potential sites that are federally funded. Rockingham said no to implementing a prison in its town years ago, yet the town is now seeking federal assistance of nearly \$130,000 to help with the plan.

Thursday, January 7th. YCN News:

Well it's official, Claremont's newest mayor and city councilors were sworn in last night during the first council meeting of the new year. Mayor Charlene Lovett earned a significant victory over incumbent mayor Jim Neilsen back in November, with newly-elected councilors Scott Pope, Allen Damren, and Bruce Temple also having won their bids for office. Lovett is scheduled to present an outline of her top priorities during the city council's next meeting January 13th, which is said to include the creation of a finance committee for thorough critiques of proposed budgets, as well as the establishment of a policy committee to review all city ordinances. Lovett has also said she wants to run council meetings more efficiently, with things always wrapping up by 9:30 p.m. To do this, Lovett said she plans to more aggressively control the public comment portion of meetings by stopping comments that are either off topic or irrelevant.

{Lower third: Walpole Police - (603)-445-2058}

Staying in New Hampshire further south in Walpole, two people were put in the hospital from a car accident on Route 12 yesterday afternoon. 25-year old Eileen Fletcher and 60-year old Matthew Bozogan, both of Walpole, were transported to Cheshire Medical Center after a collision at the intersection of Blackjack Crossing Road and Route 12 in front of Benson Woodworking. Eileen's Toyota was turning onto Blackjack Crossing Road when she collided with Bozogan's Honda Civic as he was travelling North on Route 12. Local authorities, including Walpole Police, Walpole Fire, and Walpole Ambulance responded to the scene where Bozogan was extricated from his vehicle before being transported with Fletcher 13 miles to the hospital.

At this time, authorities believe the cause of the crash was not caused by either drugs or alcohol. Anyone with information regarding the accident is urged to contact Walpole Police at (603)-445-2058.

Across the river in Springfield Vermont, local police have arrested three more people who were connected to several recent burglaries in the area. 22-year old Seth Smith of Reading Vermont was arrested in connection with two of the Downer's Four Corners store burglaries, the vandalism of a Citizen's Bank ATM, and a burglary of Rite-Aid. Meanwhile, 19-year old Liam Vezina of Springfield Vermont was arrested in connection

with only one of the Downer's Four Corners store burglaries but also in connection with the ATM vandalism and Rite-Aid robbery. Lastly, a 17-year old juvenile from Springfield was arrested in connection with all of the above crimes but also for being involved in the burglary of Jake's South Street Market and attempted robbery of the North Springfield Irving. These arrests come after authorities completed extensive investigations into all of the above burglaries. All three suspects will appear in Vermont Superior court in February and March. Just last month in December, Springfield Police had also arrested two more people for their involvement in the same crimes.

Well it seems like it was just yesterday that Lebanon Airport received some negative feedback from area residents about their new hazard beacons. Well now the local airport is under fire once again after they presented a new expansion plan that would bring improvements to the runway and airport taxiways. A forum was held on Tuesday night with the public, airport officials, and the two consulting firms leading the project: McFarland Johnson and Vanasse Hangen Brustlin out of New York and Massachusetts respectively. The Valley News reports that feedback was mixed, with area residents, including those who live on neighboring Poverty Lane, favoring this project in that it won't be as detrimental to the surrounding area than previous projects. However, residents did not hesitate to express their concern about the project's cost to taxpayers and the city's municipal budget. Other concerns focused on the noise and light impact and the environmental impact. The proposal plan will go in front of the City Council in February.

YCN News: another Republican candidate is coming to the area this week.

Sometimes in the ongoing war against opiate and heroin abuse in our region, knowledge is the best defense, and the Lebanon Police Department are taking steps to arm area residents with the power to fight back. Lebanon Police have announced that on January 27th, they are holding a public forum on the ongoing opiate and heroin abuse problem in our region. This coming after an announcement made earlier this week, where Lebanon Police warned residents of a potentially deadly batch of heroin that could make its way to the region, having been reported in Keene. All members of the public are invited to attend the meeting, which will be held at the SAU 88 Building from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The community forum will be facilitated by a panel made up of several members of local law enforcement agencies, fire services, EMS, and treatment providers. All are welcome to the event and we will remind you of it the day before it happens.

And now an update on a story we brought you a few weeks back as SAU 6 Superintendent Middleton McGoodwin told the school board last night it must reduce a proposed \$1 million-dollar increase to its annual budget before this weekend's public meeting. The Claremont School Board initially unveiled its proposal for the 2017 fiscal year last month, which included nearly \$250,000 dollars of scheduled maintenance to many of the district's buildings. The meeting will be held Saturday morning from 8:30

until noon at the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center, and will also be televised live on CCTV. Of the proposed \$1 million-dollar increase comes some \$80,000 dollars from Stevens High School alone, including an increase of \$11,000 to cover the costs of lights for athletic events played at night. Once the board approves a final budget proposal, it will put up to the public for final approval come March voting.

Turning to Vermont news now, members of the Springfield Ordinance Committee are putting the finishing touches on a proposed ordinance that would regulate so-called nuisance properties located within school zones. The committee discussed specifics about language during last night's regularly scheduled select board meeting, and plans to have a final proposal ready to present by the board's next meeting on Jan. 25. If enacted, the ordinance would classify and prohibit property within 500 feet of school zones or licensed day care facilities from exhibiting broken windows, graffiti, or plywood or particle board on its exterior. According to a draft of the ordinance, such areas are frequented by minors, as well as people interested in investing or moving into the community. The ordinance would also prohibit properties owners within the subjected area from failing to mow their lawns and ridding their land with noxious weeds which the committee says has an adverse effect on surrounding property values.

And finally tonight, with the region still absorbing Donald Trump's visit to Claremont on Tuesday, another Republican candidate is taking this time to visit before New Hampshire's Primary. Former Hewlett-Packard CEO and businesswoman Carly Fiorina will be in the area once again, visiting Colby-Sawyer College tomorrow morning for Coffee with Carly. The event kicks off at 8:00 AM and is slated to run till around 9. The social event will be held at Let bridge Lodge, located at 541 Main Street. The event is free, all are invited, and you can RSVP online if you plan on going. Attendees will be allowed to ask the candidate questions and will hear her explain her Blue Print to Take Back Our Country, as she calls it. Currently, Fiorina ranks 8th among potential Republican voters with 4.8% of their vote. All-too familiar Donald Trump leads with 27%, followed by Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz.

Friday January 8th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with a sad story out of Andover, New Hampshire after authorities say a man was killed yesterday from injuries sustained in a fire on Kearsarge Mountain Road. According to police, initial calls reported a propane explosion in the area, but upon arrival it was determined that the fire had begun in a pile of brush. By the time first responders made it to the victim, he was unable to be resuscitated and pronounced dead at the scene. The fire caused little damage to structures located on the 189 Kearsarge Mountain Road property, and officials believed it was caused accidentally. Authorities are not releasing the identity of the victim until family can be notified, and an autopsy to determine an official cause of death was scheduled for this afternoon. The fire itself also remains under investigation by the state's Fire Marshall's Office.

And now another sad story out of neighboring Warner, New Hampshire as an 87-year-old woman was found dead along an unmaintained road last night by a passing motorist. Police say the unidentified woman was found on Bear Pond Road, some 300 feet away from an unoccupied car stuck on a rock. Police say the death does not appear to be suspicious as it's believed the woman's car got stuck, and when she went looking for help, was injured and eventually died. The woman is said to be from Center Ossipee, New Hampshire, though authorities are withholding her identity until family can be notified. Bear Pond Road is a hilly Class 6 roadway, meaning it is not maintained by town or state crews. It's not yet known how long the woman was outside before her body was discovered, and an autopsy to determine her cause of death was scheduled for today.

News now regarding a well known local bank, whose long-time CEO has announced his retirement in an announcement yesterday. Mascoma Savings Bank Chief Executive Officer Stephen F. Christy has announced he will be retiring on January 1st of 2017, leaving him with slightly less than a year to continue serving customers of the Upper Valley-based bank. In a press release from Mascoma Savings Bank, Christy addressed customers and expressed his thanks for giving him what he calls an "exhilarating" experience. He began as a teller in 1973 when there was only one location in Lebanon but later when on to be elected as president in 1990. In his 26 years as president and CEO, the bank has greatly expanded its assets, locations, staff, and services. Christy says that it is time for him to step aside and allow someone else to take over the reins. Mascoma Savings Bank has 29 branch locations in our immediate area and greater Upper Valley region.

As we teased yesterday, another Republican presidential candidate was in the area this week. Former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina visited New London this morning to stop in at Colby-Sawyer College to lay out her Blueprint to Take Our Country Back, as her motto says.

She visited Lethbridge Lodge where she was welcomed by a friendly crowd. Fiorina spoke for about an hour and highlighted the main speaking points of her campaign. Let's take a quick look.

PKG

Carly will be making six stops in Iowa next week over the course of Monday and Tuesday, as February 1st inches closer and closer.

Contrary to what people may think, winter time is the season that is most prone to house fires, due to the use of wood stoves. A resident of Canaan New Hampshire is now searching for a new home after losing his trailer to a fire early yesterday morning, as officials deemed the cause of fire to have likely been from an overloaded woodstove. Don Degrasse, who has lived in the home since 1995, lost everything that was in the

home at the time of the blaze, including a pet cat. Degrasse was not home at the time of the fire, as he delivers newspapers overnight for a job, and likes to start fires in the wood stove prior to working so that his home is still warm by the time he comes home. Fire officials won't be able to determine an exact cause of the fire given the absolute destruction of the home. In a Facebook post yesterday, Canaan Fire offered their thanks to several surrounding fire departments and emergency agencies for their assistance.

In medical news now out of Windsor Vermont, Mt. Ascutney hospital is getting a second chance after a surprise inspection found some faults at the facility. The violations stem from the discovery that the hospital failed to take proper measures in helping prevent a terminally ill patient fall to ground, as he had done six times over six weeks. It was also found that the hospital did not adhere to a terminally ill patient's request to only receive comfort treatment during his final days. The inspection was completed by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services on December 9th and documented these faults, including the fact that no restraints or prevention measures were put in place for a patient with lymphoma who was prone to falling. The report highlighted multiple other deficiencies and in light of the investigation, Mt. Ascutney Hospital submitted a plan of correction to the Vermont Division of Licensing and Protection. On Tuesday, the plan of correction was accepted but the hospital could still receive penalties if it is found that staff are not complying with the plan.

A former nurse from Brattleboro Vermont pleaded guilty in court yesterday to stealing drugs from the hospital he worked at. 41-year Daniel Herlocker, who worked at Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield, Massachusetts, pleaded guilty in Springfield Vermont to stealing prescription painkillers meant to be given to patients in order to quell his own addiction.

Authorities say Herlocker drew morphine and hydromorphone from a dispensing machine during the fall of 2014 and tried to cover his tracks by replacing the stolen drugs with bottles of saline solution. However, a nurse noticed signs of potential tampering with the machine which prompted an investigation by the hospital. During his court hearing yesterday, Herlocker expressed deep regret and apologies to those who he affected with his crime. He could face up to eight years in prison and a fine of up to half a million dollars, both of which will be determined at his sentencing slated for March 31st.

{CLAREMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT - (603) 542-9538}

And now back into New Hampshire, police here in Claremont are searching for two suspects believed to be involved in an armed robbery last night on Central Street. According to Claremont Police, officers responded to a call shortly after 9 p.m. last night reporting an armed robbery at 41 Central Street up the street from the Claremont Soup Kitchen. Authorities responded to the brown and white multi-family home located at the near the intersection of Central and Pearl Street where they found an unidentified victim. They were treated and released from Valley Regional Hospital with what police called an apparent knife wound, but no additional information was available as to the

incident. No arrests have been made as of yet, and police are asking anyone with information regarding the incident to contact them at the number posted below.

Monday January 11th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with news out of Newport, New Hampshire where an oil spill at a local elementary school yesterday resulted in the loss of more than 500 gallons of heating fuel. Authorities say a broken pump at the Richards Elementary School forced fuel out of an overflow tank outside the school's mechanical room. When crews from the Newport Fire Department arrived at the School Street school shortly after 2 p.m., they found oil flowing into the parking lot and down a drain leading to a Sunapee Street retention pond. Multiple hazmat units assisted firefighters on the scene, and remained at the school well after sunset. Authorities estimate between five-and-six hundred gallons of oil was lost in the spill, ending up in the pond located a short distance from the school's playground. No homes were evacuated as a result of the spill, and the school was open for normal operation this morning.

Now that colder temperatures have moved in and we've got a bit of a snow cover on the ground, officials from the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department are reminding snowmobilers to always wear a helmet when riding. This comes after a Grantham man was injured Friday when his machine fell on top of him while riding on his own property. Authorities say Jerry Mitura was attempting to turn his snowmobile onto an embankment outside his home when it tipped over and fell on top of him. Members of the Grantham Fire and Rescue, and Police departments responded to the scene, as well as officers from the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. Mitura - who was not wearing a helmet at the time of the accident - was transported to nearby Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center for treatment of non-life threatening injuries. No additional information was available as to Mitura's condition.

Well as we inch closer to town-meeting season and eventual March voting, residents here in Claremont no longer have to worry about a \$1-million dollar increase to the city's school budget that was originally proposed. That's because district administrators on Saturday agreed to slash some \$700,000 dollars from that proposal during a public budget hearing held at the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center. The new proposal of around 31 million dollars is now up just one percent from the city's current budget, and more than 2-percent lower than the city's original proposal for the 2017 fiscal year. Of the amount slashed from the budget, most of the cut dollars came at the expense of special education, with the remainder being cut by not hiring a new position and purchasing requested media equipment. The school board will hold its next public hearing on the budget Jan.19 at 6:30 p.m.

And speaking of budget news, residents within the Kearsarge Regional School District met Saturday for a deliberative session at the High School in Sutton, New Hampshire. This year's gathering of over 120 residents discussed the proposed budget and related issues in anticipation of a March vote. Two versions of the budget were brought forward;

one proposed by the School Board and a second from the Municipal Budget Committee made up of representatives from the member communities. Both of this year's proposals were identical to each other. A group of residents offered an alternative version that simply cuts \$800,000 from the two proposals, stemming from their concern over rising property taxes. For some residents, Saturday's meeting was a very important and personal matter.

SOT

After an extended discussion a request from the floor was made for a ballot box vote. After the tally, the vote to include the alternative budget was defeated 70 to 36. The vote on the proposed articles will take place on March 8th at the member town voting places.

YCN News: we've got an update in the proposed solar farm on the prison property in Windsor Vermont.

We are back with more budget news, as the town of Sunapee prepares to discuss both Select board and School board budgets that will be enacted on July 1st. The discussion and refinement process will be influenced by public input and the town is holding public forums and hearings this week for residents to speak out. They begin tomorrow with the Sunapee Select board at 7:00 PM at the town offices on 23 Edgement Road for a budget presentation in front of the Select board and members of the public. According to town officials, the new budget is around 7 million dollars and is an increase from the current budget and will only be finalized once the public forum is held. The next day, on Wednesday, the School Board will present their budget at the middle school at 6:00 PM. The school's budget will also be seeing an increase from the current numbers, with a total of around 12 million dollars. Both budgets, when approved, will go in front of town voters in March.

Now an update from Friday's tragic story of a fire in Andover that killed one man. Authorities have identified the man as 65-year old Donald Gross, who had served as Nashua's police chief from 2000 to 2004 and was known for being a community-minded person. Gross succumbed to injuries sustained in a fire Thursday and an autopsy on Friday determined that the cause of death was smoke inhalation. When officials responded to the scene on Thursday, Gross was unable to be resuscitated and was pronounced dead at the scene. The fire itself caused little damage to structures located on the 189 Kearsarge Mountain Road property, and after an investigation by the NH State Fire Marshal's Office, the fire was deemed to have started accidentally from a pile of brush and included the use of ignitable liquids in close proximity to open flame. Neighbors of Gross have said that he was very community-minded and was an asset to the town. Andover town officials are discussing a possible memorial service for Gross.

In crime news now, police in Brattleboro Vermont have arrested two people for possession of stolen property after an investigation. According to police, 32-year old

Lisa Akey and 40-year Timothy Wainwright, both of Brattleboro, were arrested late last week on the felony level charge. Earlier this month, police were conducting a routine traffic patrol when they found an unoccupied blue Volvo that had a large amount of unopened merchandise in and around it. It was deduced that the merchandise was stolen from a local business and police executed a search warrant on the vehicle after seizing it. They found what's being called a significant amount of allegedly stolen goods. An investigation led authorities to search an apartment on Canal Street, which indeed contained more stolen goods. Akey and Wainwright were arrested in connection with the stolen property and will appear in Windham County Superior Court at a later date.

And lastly tonight, there is an update in the controversial proposed solar farm on the prison land in Windsor Vermont, which has been at a standstill for some time now. The ownership of around 700 acres of the land behind the Southeast State Correctional Facility has been transferred from of the Department of Building and General Services to the Department of Fish and Wildlife. This transfer was made official through an executive order signed late last week by Governor Peter Shumlin, but the transfer excludes the site of the proposed 19,000 panel solar farm, which is still in the hands of Building and General Services. A protest group called Protect Your Land is trying to have this section of land transferred to Fish and Wildlife as well, as to prevent any potential solar site. The solar array project, led by Green Mountain Power, is at a standstill in the light of widespread opposition by residents of Windsor, which prompted GMP to put the project on hold while they figure out how to move forward.

Tuesday, January 12th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with a developing story out of Grafton, New Hampshire where firefighters from several communities responded to an afternoon fire at a local church. According to authorities, crews first responded to the Peaceful Assembly Church on Route 4 shortly after 10:30 this morning, but the blaze was quickly elevated to a second alarm due to rapidly spreading flames. Officials on the scene told *WMUR* that one person was unaccounted for, as it's believed someone was inside an apartment above the church when the fire began. The historic church dates all the way back to 1798 according to the *Concord Monitor*, making it hard to fully extinguish the blaze due to the building's dated wooden structure. Crews from neighboring Hartford and several surrounding communities were still on the scene as of broadcast time. *YCN News* will continue to update you on this story as more information becomes available.

Now an update on the ongoing tuition debate between the Croydon School Board and the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office as a hearing scheduled for tomorrow on the merits of the law was postponed until March. Back in December, Strafford County Superior Court Judge Brian Tucker denied an injunction filed by the state's board of education to order Croydon to immediately cease funding the tuition of four students attending a nearby private school. But in his ruling, Tucker acknowledged the decision wasn't based on the merits of the law, rather, that removing the students from the private Newport Montessori School during the middle of the school year wouldn't be

ideal. The Croydon School Board has stood firm on its policy of allowing parents to choose their children's school after the fourth grade. The hearing is now scheduled to take place Wednesday, March 9.

Turning to Upper Valley news now, a Lebanon, New Hampshire man actively being sought by the city's police department was captured last night in nearby Danbury. According to a police report, 22-year-old Jeffrey Gray was wanted by police for failing to register as a sex offender - which, in itself, is a Class B Felony. The man's last known address was on Mascoma Street in Lebanon, but it was believed he moved to the Grafton area without notifying authorities. After a short investigation, Gray was located and arrested by officers from both the Danbury and Bristol police departments in regards to the Lebanon warrant, and was transported to the city where he was declined bail and ordered held at the Grafton County House of Corrections. Gray is scheduled to be arraigned today, while additional charges to accomplices could be pending.

Now on a more uplifting note, last night brought the annual meeting of the Lake Sunapee Region Chamber of Commerce. Held at Colby-Sawyer College, chamber members highlighted the region's activities from the past year, including the New London Hospital Days parade, held on August 1st. The Chamber also announced the winners of the prestigious Business of the Year and Person of the Year awards. The Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice took the title of Business of the Year. We caught up with Kathy Raymond, the development officer at the VNA and Hospice, as she speaks to Lynn Solomon about the award.

SOT

Local realtor Ben Cushing received the Person of the Year award for his assets to the community. Congratulations to both the Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice and Ben Cushing for those prestigious titles.

YCN News: a community has come together for a man who lost it all in a fire.

We're back with an update in a story we brought you last Friday as the story has taken an uplifting turn. Late last week, Canaan resident Don Degrasse lost his home and all of his personal belongings that were inside his home when a fire started accidentally last Thursday. Degrasse was out working delivering newspapers Thursday morning when he came home to find his home destroyed, which officials blame on an overloaded woodstove. In an act of sympathy and support, Canaan resident Karen Lester started a GoFundMe fundraiser to help raise money for Degrasse. In only 3 days, the initial goal of \$3000 was surpassed by more than 200 bucks. Lester, the fundraiser's organizer, has posted an update expressing her deep thanks, saying "this feels so good to be a part of - we have made a huge impact here. I can't thank you all enough".

If you would like to help Don Degrasse back on his feet even further, we've posted the link to the GoFundMe on our website.

Across the river in Weathersfield Vermont, the town is welcoming a new town manager, which was announced at last night's Select board meeting. 41-year old Ed Morris of Idaho, will be moving to town in February and assuming his duties come March. Morris was picked out of a total of 46 applicants and was selected recently out of a the top three finalists to replace outgoing town manager Jim Mullen. Morris is married with a son and a daughter, who are both in their teens. Having lived in Idaho for nearly 20 years, he acted as a firefighter for 16 of those years and is currently enrolled in online coursework for the University of Missouri, where he is pursuing a master's degree in public affairs. Weathersfield Vermont is a historic town, having been chartered in 1761 and the annual town meeting is held the first Monday of March. This year, the date falls on March 7th, where residents will have a chance to be introduced to Ed Morris.

Back in New Hampshire, a Sunapee man is facing multiple charges after threatening shoppers at a local store, driving away from the scene, and crashing his car, all while under the influence. Police in Concord say that they were called to the Walmart store on Loudon Road at around 8:00 last Friday night on reports of an aggressive panhandler, identified as 21-year old Cameron Meehan. While police were en route to the store, they received word that the suspect had fled from the scene and was driving recklessly, including ramming a civilian's car who tried to stop him. The suspect crashed his car and resisted arrest. He was Tasered, and despite continuing to resist authorities' attempts to subdue him, was eventually put in handcuffs. Police returned to the Walmart and learned that he had threatened two separate sets of victims, aggressively demanding \$60. Meehan was charged with DUI, disobeying an officer, and resisting arrest.

And finally tonight, in Campaign 2016 news, Hillary Clinton will be continuing to build support in the area, but she won't be doing it personally. Instead, former president Bill Clinton will be in town, on behalf of his wife, building support among Granite State voters. Tomorrow, area residents can catch him at either the Common Man Restaurant here in Claremont at 5:30 PM or later on at the Hopkins Center on the Dartmouth Campus in Hanover. He'll also be in Keene at 3:15 before either of those stops. Clinton began his campaign for his wife earlier this week here in the Granite State as he spoke in Nashua and Exeter. The enhanced Clinton campaigning comes as the race heats up with rival Bernie Sanders in New Hampshire, whose numbers are currently slightly higher than Hillary's. In 1992, Bill Clinton labeled himself the "Comeback Kid" when he defied expectations and pulled off much higher numbers than he expected in the primary and started his path to the nomination.

Wednesday January 13th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with an update on our top story from yesterday as authorities confirmed one man was killed during a fire at a 200-year-old church in Grafton, New Hampshire. Firefighters responded to the Peaceful Assembly Church on Route 4 shortly before 11 o'clock yesterday morning to find quickly spreading flames throughout the

structure. Once the fire was put out and crews were able to get into the church at around 5 p.m., they discovered the body of an unidentified deceased male. According to the Valley News, the church was founded by John Connell who lived in an apartment within the structure. Connell's whereabouts were not known as of yesterday evening, though his cars were parked nearby. Crews from more than six different towns assisted Grafton firefighters on the scene, including the Hartford, Lebanon and Hanover fire departments. A detour along Route 4 near the scene of the fire is still in place as authorities continue to investigate the cause of the fire.

{NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE POLICE - (603) 271-3636}

Sticking with New Hampshire news, a state trooper was taken to the hospital with minor injuries last night after his vehicle was rear-ended by a tractor trailer on Interstate 89. According to the police report, the trooper was pulled over on the side of the highway in Warner shortly after 6 p.m. last night to assist a driver who had gone off the road. While sitting in his cruiser with its emergency lights on, his vehicle was struck by the truck and was pushed more than 250 feet down the road. The truck driver initially slowed down and pulled into the breakdown lane, but quickly fled the scene before additional crews arrived. The trooper was transported to Concord Hospital with what was described as minor injuries. The tractor trailer is described as having Canadian registration with a dark-colored cab, and possibly a sleeper. State Police are asking anyone with information on the incident to contact them at the number on the screen.

Continuing with our budget news from the other day, the Newport school district is preparing to present their 2016-2017 budget tomorrow night. Members of the public are invited to attend and it's taking place at 6 PM in the Newport Middle High School Gymnasium. As it stands, the proposed budget is slightly less than 18 million dollars and will bring a 3 percent spending increase. Fortunately, this increase will not have any sort of impact on the school's tax rate. Town officials say that additional revenue will be contributed by tuition payments from neighboring towns like Goshen, Lempster, Croydon, and Unity. This additional revenue will cover any sort of tax increase that would be imposed by a 3 percent spending increase. Part of the new budget also includes new teacher positions including an elementary assistant principal and a special education coordinator. Currently, there are additional articles that may be implemented into the budget and will be discussed tomorrow night.

Well with a little snow on the ground, especially after last night's snowfall, one local community group is looking to help others stay safe while travelling in wintertime. By travelling, we mean walking, which can be quite hazardous in wintertime with some conditions making for slippery sidewalks or driveways. The Wilmot Community Association is holding a workshop tomorrow on slips and falls to give you some tips for walking through a winter wonderland. Let's hear from a member of the Association:

PKG

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YCN News

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Again, the workshop is being held tomorrow from 10:00 to 11:30 AM at the Wilmot Community Association Red Barn on 64 Village Road in Wilmot. The informational session is presented in partnership with the New London Hospital and the Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice.

YCN News: a restaurant in Brattleboro is under investigation after it was discovered that they were taking food out of the trash and putting it on dinner plates.

Tonight's Powerball Jackpot is making news as the largest in history. And with the jackpot well over 1.5 billion it's hard to know if it could be too good to be true. YCN went to Brattleboro Mobil today and asked an employee what his technique was for buying tickets.

SOT

The drawing for the biggest jackpot will be taking place tonight at 11 PM. The last drawing on January 9th was the 19th without a grand prize winner. For those of you who bought a ticket, good luck!

Now a disturbing story out of Brattleboro, Vermont as a restaurant on Putney Road is being accused of serving food taken from a dumpster. According to the complaint filed with the Vermont Department of Health, the Panasian asian restaurant is accused of removing food - including oranges - from the dumpster of a nearby grocery store and serving it to customers. The Brattleboro Police Department received a complaint from an unidentified person Dec. 26, prompting an inspection from the state's department of health four days later. In his report, state inspector Thomas Hubbel wrote that the restaurant's manager stated some employees take food from the dumpster, but that it is not used in the restaurant. Hubbel went on to write that he informed the restaurant's manager to no longer allow his employees to engage in that practice. The Panasian remains open for lunch and dinner in Brattleboro's Fairfield Plaza Shopping Center.

Staying in the Green Mountain State, residents of Windsor continued to show their opposition of a proposed 19,000 panel solar site during last night's Select board meeting, days after it was announced that 700 acres of the land had been transferred to Fish and Wildlife. The large plot of land behind the Southeast State Correctional Facility was originally in the hands of Building and General Services, but an executive order signed just last week by Governor Shumlin has given most of the land to Vermont Fish and Wildlife. However, the transfer does not include around 50 acres adjacent to the prison, which could still be used for the solar site. Currently, the project led by Green Mountain Power is on hold and residents asked Windsor officials to take a stand on the project, either for or against. Green Mountain Power has yet to move the project forward

or scrap it altogether, as area residents continue to oppose the array, citing wildlife endangerment and it potentially being an eyesore.

And finally tonight, New Hampshire's largest newspaper, the Union Leader, has been cut from hosting a future Republican debate in partnership with ABC. The debate, scheduled for February 6th, will take place in Manchester at St. Anselm College and is the only debate where Republicans will face off in the Granite State. What's more is that Donald Trump has taken credit for the newspaper being dropped, which he stated in a Tweet on Sunday afternoon. The newspaper endorsed New Jersey governor Chris Christie in November and just a few weeks ago, published a front page editorial that slammed Trump. The business mogul responded by saying that Christie pulled strings to have the defamatory article written. ABC News has defended the partnership split saying that they didn't want a sense of bias on the stage. The debate will take place as planned, but will be hosted by ABC alone.

Thursday January 14th. YCN News:

We start tonight with local Campaign 2016 news as Former President Bill Clinton was in the area yesterday, campaigning on behalf of his wife Hillary's run for the president's office. He stopped in Keene around 3:00 PM, was in Claremont at the Common Man at 6:00, and rounded out his trip at Dartmouth College's Hopkins Center. We caught Clinton at his Claremont stop, where he spoke for less than hour about Hillary's accomplishments and why she is the best choice for the nation's top office. He was introduced by the organizer of the Claremont Hillary campaign office.

PKG

The Hillary campaign has become a family affair as their daughter, Chelsea, is also touring New Hampshire, trying to sway voters in the final few weeks before the first in the nation primary.

{ALICE PECK DAY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - (603) 442-5610}

Well a local hospital is offering more than 800 free re-vaccinations to children after a problem was discovered in a refrigeration unit where the vaccines were kept. Lebanon's Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital announced in a press release yesterday that it cannot guarantee vaccinations given between September 2014 and October of last year were effective, as the vaccines needed to be stored within a particular temperature range. The vaccines - which prevent diseases like polio, hepatitis, and measles - were given to more than 800 children, though the hospital said in its release that none of the affected patients have contracted a disease. State inspectors were notified of the problem back in August, though an announcement wasn't made until yesterday as hospital officials deemed it was not an urgent public health issue. Parent's of children affected by the issue can find more information by visiting the hospital's website - AlicePeckDay.org - or by calling the number shown on the screen.

Sticking with New Hampshire news, the Sunapee School Board is making good on its promise to address what residents have called a growing bullying problem. The board has invited an expert on the subject to speak to students, faculty and members of the community today. Bullying has been a recurring theme at recent school board meetings, with some residents taking their personal stories to the editorial pages of local newspapers. As a response, the board invited Dr. Malcolm Smith - one of the nation's top educators in teaching young people empathy, compassion and kindness - to host a handful of assemblies today at Sunapee Middle High School. Dr. Smith spoke to both middle school and high school students - as well as all of the district's teachers - in two separate assemblies this afternoon, before addressing parents and members of the community tonight in the Sherburne Gymnasium. A video of Dr. Smith addressing 5,000 New Hampshire students can be found at DrMalcolmSmith.net.

Crossing into Vermont now, with recent talk of turning a former Bellows Falls mill building into a state prison, a newly-formed citizens group is doing their part in trying to prevent the proposal from becoming a reality. The group - called Rockingham For Progress - is calling for creative adaptive reuse of the former Liberty Paper Co. located on Westminster street, and also plans to petition the town's zoning board to restrict construction of a prison. The petition seeks to change the permitted uses of the riverfront property, and specifically disallow more than 18 people from being incarcerated at any time. The group launched a website this week at RockinghamForProgress.org in which visitors will find a link to sign its petition to the zoning board. The group - which is hoping to obtain 250 signature to force a town meeting on the subject - is also distributing lawn signs that read "Don't Jail Our Future."

YCN News: the Claremont Community Center is seeing more memberships than last year.

An update now in our top story for the past two days, as authorities have confirmed the identity of a man killed in Tuesday's church fire in Grafton, New Hampshire. 57-year old John Connell, the church's founder who lived in an apartment within the building, was confirmed dead by officials. The 200-year old Peaceful Assembly Church on Route 4 caught fire around 11:00 on Tuesday morning. Firefighters were able to knock down the flames and enter the building by 5 PM, where they found a then unidentified body. Connell's whereabouts were not known during or after the fire, though his cars were parked nearby. An autopsy confirmed the body was indeed Connell's, who had died from smoke inhalation. Crews from more than six different towns assisted Grafton firefighters on the scene, including the Hartford, Lebanon and Hanover fire departments. The cause of the fire is still under investigation tonight.

Still in New Hampshire tonight, membership at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center is on the rise, thanks partly to new equipment. Parks and Recreation Director Mark Brislin tells the Eagle Times that they've been really busy as of late, with around 370 people checking in during the month of December, which is 35 more people than

the numbers at the same time last year. The Community Center has added some new equipment to help with weight lifting and working out, and what's more is that Brislin says some of the equipment was moved around to create a better workout flow. The facility is also investigating the costs and feasibility of purchasing and installing workout equipment that would be accessible to those who are disabled or in wheelchairs. The rise in memberships comes in light of another Claremont fitness facility, Pleasant Street's Twisted Fitness, closing, which had been losing memberships to the Community Center since it opened.

Up in Lebanon now, the city's planning board on Monday approved a new housing unit on Route 120 near Centerra, that will house multiple families. The Valley News reports that the board unanimously approved the site plan for the complex, which would bring a clubhouse and four buildings that would provide 120 apartments. The site location is behind the existing Element hotel right near Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and Centerra Parkway, on the North side of Route 120. The development is part of the Altaria project, which includes the hotel, and is being completed by Anagnost, a Manchester-based construction and real estate firm. Despite the project being approved, the board approved only 216 parking spaces which the developer claims is not enough to accommodate all of the complex's residents and guests. The board will examine a list of proposed changes to the ordinance when it meets on January 25th.

And finally tonight in Campaign 2016 news once again, the Republican presidential candidates are taking to the debate stage once again tonight. The Fox Business Network is hosting the 6th debate so far in Charleston, South Carolina, at the North Charleston Coliseum and Performing Arts Center. In similar fashion to previous debates, there will be a pre-debate for candidates who are lowest in the polls, which took place at 6 PM and the main event is kicking off at 9 PM. Neil Cavuto and Maria Bartiromo will be tonight's moderators, who will wrangle the seven candidates, including Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, and Ben Carson. Planning to tune in tonight? You can watch the debate on the Fox Business Network channel on television, live stream it online at FoxBusiness.com, or listen to Fox News Radio for a broadcast. And of course, Twitter will provide real-time commentary and updates if you'd like a two-screen experience to not miss a single second of the event.

Friday January 15th. YCN News:

We start tonight in Newport New Hampshire as the school board and residents met yesterday to discuss the proposed 2016-2017 budget, but it was not without questions. The school district invited members of the public to a hearing at 6 PM last night in the Newport Middle High School. The 18 million dollar budget has been increased by half a million dollars from last year and the school district plans to draw increased tuition revenues from surrounding towns to cover an increased tax rate of around 1 dollar. Additionally, students would pay \$35 once a year to take part in co-curricular activities. Residents were curious as to the causes for the increase from last year and made their concerns known to the board. School officials explained that the increase was because

of benefits and health insurance for school faculty. Currently, there are additional articles that may be implemented into the budget the Newport School Board will meet with the Budget Advisory Committee on January 18th to discuss further.

A developing story now as police in Vermont are investigating a potential suicide in the Quechee Gorge after a body was found yesterday morning. Major Brad Vail of the Hartford Police Department tells WCAX that he was driving by the bridge when he noticed an abandoned car.

Hartford police investigated the scene and found an unidentified body at the bottom of the gorge. Police are investigating the incident as likely a suicide, but have yet to officially consider it one.

The Quechee Gorge Bridge, which was designed in 1911 and sits 163 feet above the Ottauquechee River, is known for having seen numerous suicides during its existence, with a few incidents happening just last year. In July, a Plymouth NH woman jumped to her death and Hartford man did the same in August. Members of the public have called for higher fences or protective measures on the bridge, which have yet to be implemented. Most importantly, this potential suicide stresses the increase in the treatment of mental health, which is believed to be the leading cause of the suicides at the landmark bridge.

As the Republican presidential candidates debated last night in Charleston, South Carolina, Democratic Bernie Sanders was in Hanover, rallying Granite State voters, including a large amount of college students. The Vermont senator, who is currently polling higher than rival Hillary Clinton in New Hampshire, spoke at Spaulding Auditorium on the campus of Dartmouth College to a crowd of around 1400. Sanders played off the energy of the predominantly young crowd as he rallied them around his campaign speaking points. He emphasized New Hampshire-specific issues such as the minimum wage, currently at \$7.25, which he called a starvation wage. In addition to his main speech, last night's town-hall meeting came with news of an endorsement by former National Democratic Party Chair Paul Kirk. In the other campaign-centric state, Iowa, Sanders is behind Clinton by only 2 percentage points, which is considerably closer than last month, as he tries to shorten his lead across the country.

Hot off the heels of last night's debate, another presidential candidate was in the area today. YCN's John O'Connor has this story.

PKG

In what seems like a familiar story given a recent incident here in Claremont, a Connecticut woman has been charged with crashing her car into Westminster Vermont home while under the influence. According to police, 38-year old Stephanie Howe crashed her car into the home of 43-year old Westminster resident Gabriel Wellins, moving the house up to a foot off of its foundation. The incident occurred when Howe

veered off of Route 121 around 9:00 PM and slammed into the residence. At the scene, after she performed sobriety tests and declined a breath test, she was arrested on suspicion of DUI. She was processed at the Rockingham State Police Barracks and issued a citation for DUI Refusal and Gross Negligent Operation. Howe was released and issued to appear in court on February 2nd. This accident comes less than a month after two teenagers in Claremont hit a house on Maple Avenue with their car, while fleeing from police.

Over in Claremont, just about a month after announcing his retirement at the end of 2016, city manager Guy Santagate had his final contract ratified by the city council last night. Santagate, who has served in the role since 2001, has said that he will remain in Claremont after the contract expires, and plans to help the city in its search of hiring a new city manager. Though it is known the contract was ratified, specifics on the vote - as well as details within the contract - were not immediately made available. Councilors met in a non-public session to discuss the contract, and voted afterward to seal the minutes. According to the *Valley News*, Santagate's final contract will not exceed his currently annual salary of \$100,000 dollars. The new contract comes more than six months after the council first met to review Santagate's performance, with neither side acknowledging why the process took so long.

Also coming out of last night's city council meeting was news that the city will be expending up to \$8,000 dollars to heat the abandoned Junior Sports League building located on Claremont's School Street. The council voted unanimously to allot the funds from its general fund, in a move that will prevent multiple forms of damage to the building and specifically its roof. The council also received an update into the potential sale of the building, with news that there have been several interested parties, but no formal bids at this point. The council voted last April to put the JSL building up for sale, as well as the former Goodwin Community Center building on Broad Street. The JSL has been vacant since the end of 2014, and needs numerous structural improvements before being deemed safe for public use. The \$8,000 dollars to be used to heat the building was not budgeted by the city, as it was hoped the building would be sold by winter.

And finally tonight, disabled veterans from all over the country came to The Lake Sunapee Region for three days to participate in the 17 annual Winter Sports Clinic for Disabled Veterans. The event was held this week from Tuesday until just yesterday. Mount Sunapee Resort welcomed 60 disabled veterans to learn how to ski, snowboard, kayak, air rifle shoot, and skate with the help from 120 volunteers. The event was put on by a partnership between the VA New England Healthcare System and the New England Healing Sports Association. YCN's Lynn Solomon spoke with the New England Healing Sports Association president as he reflects on the group's recent name change.

PKG

Other activities, which you just saw, for the veterans included a wheelchair basketball game between the veterans and the Sunapee Fire Department held at Sunapee High School and a Texas Holdem Poker game Wednesday night. Veterans wrapped up their three activity days with a ski race on yesterday at Mount Sunapee Resort.

Monday, January 18th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with a developing story out of Newport, as a guidance counselor to middle and high school students has been placed on administrative leave after he was arrested on seven counts of indecent exposure and lewdness. Sunapee police say Thomas Mauzy turned himself in to authorities Friday after a month-long investigation in which he was accused of exposing himself on multiple occasions to the reporting party. Sunapee Police Chief David Cahill said in a press release that nothing in the investigation has led law enforcement to believe any minors were involved or at risk, though SAU 43 Superintendent Cindy Gallagher announced over the weekend that Mauzy had been placed on administrative leave. Mauzy works within the Newport High School serving both high school and middle school students, though the allegations are said to pertain to off campus incidents. Mauzy was released on \$10,000 dollars personal recognizance bail, and is scheduled to be arraigned March 1 at the 5th Circuit Court in Newport.

{LEBANON POLICE DEPARTMENT - (603) 448-1212}

Turning to Upper Valley news now, local and state authorities are investigating the death of a 28-year-old man found unresponsive in an Etna Road residence Friday afternoon. The investigation is being done by the Lebanon Police Department and New Hampshire State Police Major Crimes Unit. According to Lebanon Police Chief Richard Mello, officers entered the 4 Etna Road home shortly after 4:15 p.m. on Friday for a wellness check of a man who hadn't been heard from in several days. After gaining access to the residence, officers discovered the unidentified deceased male. Police say they are still investigating the circumstances surrounding the victim's death, though they perceive no threat to the general public. Police are still withholding the identity of the victim, **{L3}** and anyone with information into the matter is encouraged to contact police at the number shown below. YCN News will continue to update you on the story as more information becomes available.

{LEBANON FIRE DEPARTMENT - (603) 448-8810}

Staying in Lebanon, a fire in a vacant Hanover Street Extension that happened early Saturday morning has been deemed suspicious by local authorities, prompting an investigation into its cause. According to the Lebanon Fire Department, crews responded to the two-story former brick factory shortly before 2 a.m. Saturday morning to find heavy fire coming from the second story. Crews doused the majority of the flames within 15 minutes, and had the fire under control shortly after 3:30 a.m. Crews from neighboring Hanover and Hartford assisted Lebanon at the scene of the fire, which was deemed suspicious due to the building's lack of utilities and an ignition source. The

owner of the building had agreed to board the building up and post no trespassing signs, according to the *Valley News*, but the work hadn't been done by the time of the fire. No injuries were reported, **{L3}** and anyone with information into the blaze is encouraged to call the Lebanon Fire Department at the number shown below.

In Enfield New Hampshire now, police are investigating a crash involving a Springfield man who was found with hypothermia in the woods hours after he crashed his car on I-89 in Enfield. Police say that 49-year old James Borneman went off Interstate 89 while travelling southbound on Friday night when he lost control of the car and it rolled over several times. When police responded to the accident, they couldn't find Borneman and checked area hospitals and with known family members for the missing man. Hours later, police found tracks leading into the woods and with the help of a K-9 unit, Lebanon police were led to a brook, which Borneman had crossed. After crossing the brook, police located Borneman on the other side around 3:30 AM, curled up in a fetal position and suffering from hypothermia. The Lebanon Fire Department was called in to employ one of their higher ladders to rescue the man, who was then transported to DHMC for treatment of hypothermia and serious injuries sustained in the crash.

YCN News: we'll talk political news involving both local and national politicians.

We've got an entire segment of political news now as the presidential race heats up leading up to New Hampshire's primary. More on that later, but first we begin with local politics, as New Hampshire state Senator Jerry Little visited Mount Royal Academy in Sunapee late last week. The Senator toured the school with Headmaster Derek Tremblay and visited multiple classes including a 4th grade classroom, offering some insight on being a politician.

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Senator Little then addressed the high school students in an assembly, which the senator acknowledged that the students must have been grateful of to miss some class time. He spoke about his initial desire to go into the field of radio broadcasting and how the industry changed, leading him into a career of politics starting with Governor Sununu. Senator Little is serving his first term in the New Hampshire Senate, having been elected in 2014 to represent District 8, which includes the towns of Newport, Sunapee, New London, and 23 others.

Onto political news regarding Campaign 2016, Kentucky Senator and presidential candidate Rand Paul made a campaign stop this past Saturday at the Village Pizza. Around lunch time, about 50 people from around the area including the towns of Newport, New London, and Sunapee travelled through the snow to have pizza, shake hands with the senator, and talk with Paul one on one. Topics of conversation ranged from foreign policy, ISIS, tax cuts, cutting the size of the United States government, fellow presidential candidates Trump and Christie, and of course, the New England

Patriots. Rand Paul was in Londonderry and Manchester earlier in the day and headed to Hanover afterwards. To round out his tour he hosted a Patriots Watch Party in Concord, New Hampshire. Now that's one way to win the hearts and minds of New Englanders.

And speaking of Newport, Florida Senator Marco Rubio, who we heard from before the weekend from New England College, was in town at the Sturm Ruger firearms manufacturing company on Friday. The main topic of discussion, as you may have guessed, was the 2nd Amendment and gun rights, which was a hot topic in light of the recent Republican debate the night before. He argued that the 2nd Amendment it is a right, not a suggestion, and revealed that he bought a handgun on Christmas Eve in a store that was crowded because, as Rubio put it, people were afraid of what was going on. As a gift for his time speaking and touring the firearms company, Rubio was gifted with Ruger Hawkeye bolt-action rifle, which he said was his first rifle, having already owned handguns. According to a poll by Real Clear Politics, Rubio is ranking second in New Hampshire, with 12.5 percent, as compared to leader Donald Trump's 30.5 percent. Third place sees Ohio Governor John Kasich with 11.8 percent.

So speaking of our third place candidate, Governor John Kasich is currently on an intensive tour of New Hampshire of his own, having made three stops today and will be making four on both Tuesday and Wednesday. Today, he made stops in Plymouth before travelling to Hanover and Lebanon where he spoke at Dartmouth College's Tuck building and the Lebanon Senior Center, respectively. His wife, first lady of Ohio, Karen Kasich, toured Dartmouth Hitchcock's David's House, which offers a home away from home for kids receiving treatment at the hospital. For the next two days, the Kasich family will be touring locations further south, including Bow, Hillsboro, and Concord. This past Sunday, Kasich was endorsed by three state newspapers, the Nashua Telegraph, Foster's Daily Democrat, and the Portsmouth Herald. Nationally, Kasich ranks 8th among the Republican candidates with a 2.3 percent polling average, according to Real Clear Politics.

Tuesday, January 19th. YCN News:

{LOWER THIRD: SUNAPEE POLICE - (603) 763-5555}

We begin tonight with breaking news as Sunapee Police responded to the Sunapee Middle High School for a report of a bomb threat around 12:00 noon today. When police arrived on the scene, they were told that school officials had received a phone call of a recorded message from an unidentified male, which stated that there were bombs in the building. No students were at the school at the time, given that there were no classes in session today. School staff were at the school however, attending a workshop. Around 50 staff members were evacuated as Sunapee Police swept the building for suspicious packages. After about an hour, the building was deemed clear and school staff were allowed to reenter the building. School will begin its normal schedule come tomorrow and anyone with information on the bomb threat is urged to contact Sunapee Police at 603-763-5555.

Now an update on a story we brought you yesterday involving the investigation into the death of a 28-year-old man found unresponsive in his Lebanon home late Friday afternoon. *The Dartmouth* - the student newspaper of Dartmouth College - reports the identity of the deceased to be Scott Smedinghoff, a fourth-year graduate student working toward a doctorate in mathematics. Smedinghoff was found dead in his 4 Etna Road residence shortly after 4 o'clock Friday afternoon by Lebanon police officers conducting a wellness check. According to Lebanon Police Chief Richard Mello, the wellness check was requested after Smedinghoff hadn't been heard from in several days. He added that no threat to the general public was perceived. Smedinghoff's death remains under investigation by the Lebanon Police Department, and the New Hampshire State Police Major Crime Unit. Smedinghoff was a pianist for the Dartmouth Wind Ensemble, and the choir director at the First Congregational Church in Thetford, Vermont.

Turning to news out of Newport now, the town's school board voted last night to support a default budget of \$17.2 million dollars for the upcoming school year, instead of the nearly \$19 million dollar budget proposed late last year. The new proposal comes at a savings of more than a million and a half dollars from its predecessor, but would still come with an increased tax rate of \$1.50 per thousand dollars of property value if approved by voters. For the district's schools, numerous cuts will need to be made to endure the savings, with the reduction of up to nine positions and the elimination of junior varsity sports at the high school all being considered. Residents could see a total increase of \$2.66 in next year's tax rates if an additional three warrant items are approved with the budget on election day. A deliberative session on the default budget is slated for Feb. 2 at 6 p.m. at Newport Middle-High School.

And speaking of town meetings, voters across the river in Rockingham, Vermont will be asked to allot nearly half a million dollars to fund repairs to town hall, as well as several other expenditures incorporated within numerous warrant articles. The Select board is hosting a town meeting with residents on Feb. 29 to discuss the 22 articles in all, which will eventually be put to their vote March 1. Among the repairs to town hall include upgrades to the building's 30-year-old elevator, its main and alley doors, as well as improvements to the roof. The Select board is also asking to borrow \$1 million dollars to fund the replacement of 13 fire department vehicles and apparatus in Rockingham, Bellows Falls and Saxtons River. An additional article, as previously reported here on *YCN News*, is a citizen's request to authorize voters the ability to decide the location of a proposed federal prison in the village of Bellows Falls. Voters will also elect town and school district officials come the March 1 vote.

News out of Sunapee now as a local store is getting a second lease on life in an all new location.

Tattered Pages, a toy store, owned by Brenda Huff has reopened at its new location on Lower Main Street in Sunapee across from the Sunapee Middle High School. The store was originally located in Sunapee Harbor but closed a few years ago due to slow

business during the winter months and a space that was too large. The building that the toy store now occupies used to be a general store in the late 1800's, later becoming a department store, a hardware store, and a general store with a diner as time progressed. One particular counter that was used by many of the previous owners is now being used by Brenda Huff in her new store, keeping its historic significance alive. Tattered Pages offers books, games, toys, dress up costumes, and many educational toys for young and old alike. Winter hours at the store are from 10am to 5pm Wednesday through Saturday. A toy store right across from a school? Sounds like the best possible location!

YCN News: the repair of Woodstock's historic fence is adding up to a lot more than planned.

Rough trail conditions are being blamed for a snowmobile accident yesterday afternoon in Webster that severely injured the leg of a 27-year-old Merrimack man. According to a press release from the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, a 911 call was made shortly before 4 p.m. yesterday afternoon by a snowmobiler reporting his riding partner was involved in a crash. When authorities arrived on the scene on the trail - maintained by the Kearsarge Trail Snails Snowmobile Club - they found Ryan Labee suffering from what was described as a severe leg injury. Labee - who was said to be wearing proper gear, including a helmet, at the time of the accident - was transported to nearby Concord Hospital for treatment. Authorities say that though the trail was covered, minimal amounts of snow have prevented it from being groomed yet this year. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is reminding riders to always expect the unexpected while on the trails, and to always be prepared for potential emergency situations.

Over in the Green Mountain State now, residents of Hartford will have to make a decision on whether they want a tax on rooms, meals, and alcohol to bring in extra revenue for the town. A public hearing is being held tonight by town officials to determine if there should be a surcharge on the above options, which residents can either agree or disagree with. *The Valley News* reports that the idea has been in discussion for quite some time now in the Vermont town, as it offers an alternative to raising town revenue through taxes on residents. The surcharge on rooms, meals, and alcohol is designed for tourists and travelers who are coming to or traveling through town and utilize any of those options. Proponents say that the tax would be such a slight increase that people buying any of the services would not think twice about paying a small extra amount. The public hearing on the issue was scheduled for 7 PM tonight and voters will have a final say when they vote in the Town Meeting on March 1st.

Staying in Vermont tonight, in nearby Woodstock, the repair of the town's antique fence around the green that was damaged in a car crash is costing much more than officials had planned. A significant portion of the fence that surrounds the town's green was

damaged back in November when two trucks collided, locked together, and hit the cast iron fence. The fence dates back to 1878 and officials estimated it would cost around \$40,000 to repair. Now, two months later, the cost is up to \$125,000, more than the triple the original estimate. At last Tuesday's meeting of town trustees, it was announced that the cost to make a wood cast and mold a new iron around it would be around \$92,000, with the work being done by the Springfield Fence Company. In addition, a new bench, a street light, and multiple parking meters need to all be replaced as well. Woodstock officials will use their insurer to gain compensation from the insurance companies of both of the drivers who hit the fence. All the repair work is slated to begin this summer.

And finally, in Campaign 2016 news and revisiting a story from yesterday's broadcast, Kentucky Senator Rand Paul's visit to Newport on Saturday brought conversations of football and foreign policy. Those were just two of his speaking points that he engaged an intimate crowd at Village Pizza with, but went on to discuss ISIS, tax cuts, and fellow candidates Trump and Christie. Instead of the usual town hall style meeting that most candidates, including Paul, pursue, he spoke to attendees one and one and made sure that each voice was heard. When speaking about party front runner Donald Trump, Paul said:

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He went on to speak with supporters about the hot topic of the day, that being the divisional round of the AFC playoffs involving the New England Patriots and the Kansas City Chiefs. He explained that he was born a Steelers fan, having been from Pittsburgh, and felt out of place growing up in Texas, as he was surrounded by Cowboys and Texans fans. Paul currently ranks 7th in New Hampshire polling, with a 4.3 percent average on Real Clear Politics.

Wednesday, January 20th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with an update on a story we've been following for some time now, as an Enfield day care operator found guilty in the wrongful death of a child under her care was sentenced yesterday to four months in state prison. Mary Ellen Burritt received a three-year prison sentence, with all but four months being suspended, and ordered to pay a little more than \$100,000 dollars for medical and funeral expenses to the family of Willa Clark. Clark - who was four years old at the time of the March 2014 incident - died at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center two days after she was found choking while hanging from her parka in Burritt's backyard. The at-home daycare was not licensed at the time of the incident, and Willa's mother - Cara Clark - testified that she assumed it was when she was deciding to utilize the service. Jurors found Burritt guilty of three misdemeanors in November, including one count of reckless conduct, and two counts of operating an unlicensed day care.

Here in Claremont, SAU 6 Superintendent Middleton McGoodwin officially presented the district's \$31.2-million dollar budget proposal for the 2017 fiscal year last night during a public hearing. The budget comes in at nearly \$1 million dollars less than what board members had originally proposed, after the restructuring of special education and other programs, as well as changes to staffing. The proposal is approximately \$20,000 higher than the district's current budget, and would lead to a minimal increase in the city's tax rates if approved by voters in March. Voters will also face several warrant articles attached to the budget, including the allotment of \$20,000 to conduct expanded criminal background checks for potential employees, and the use of \$121,000 to purchase security cameras and other enhancements for all of the district's schools. The district will present its final budget recommendation to voters at its annual meeting scheduled for March 9.

Shifting to Vermont news now, a Bellows Falls man accused of choking and kidnapping his girlfriend was released yesterday as part of a plea deal with state prosecutors. According to Windsor District Court documents, 40-year-old Chad Fickert received a suspended one to two year sentence in state prison, and was issued a \$1,500 dollar fine after pleading no contest to misdemeanor charges of domestic assault and interfering with access to emergency services. Fickert - who was also credited for four months served due to pre-trial detention - was arrested back in September by Chester police after the victim reported she had been choked by the man, held without her will, and repeatedly threatened with a handgun. Prosecutors say witness testimony conflicted with significant portions of the victim's statement, leading to the eventual plea deal. As part of the deal, Fickert is prohibited from contacting the victim or witnesses, nor will he be allowed to possess a firearm or other weapons.

An update now in a story we brought you yesterday where a bomb threat was called in by an unidentified male to Sunapee Middle High School, forcing an evacuation of staff who were there for a workshop. Authorities say similar threats were made at two other schools in NH yesterday as well, those being Plymouth and Farmington. The threats at Sunapee and Plymouth were made by what was described as a pre-recorded message over the phone, while the one in Farmington was found written on a wall in the boys bathroom. In addition, around a dozen schools in Massachusetts also received automated bomb threat calls yesterday possibly from the same source, saying that there were explosives in their respective buildings. The FBI is currently investigating the source of these calls and Sunapee Middle High School was evacuated for about an hour as police swept the building. No students were at the school that day because no classes were in session, but around 50 staff members were there attending a workshop. Class resumed on a regular schedule today.

YCN News: Hartford residents discuss an options tax at a public hearing last night.

An update in yesterday's top story as Lebanon police have officially confirmed the identity of a Dartmouth graduate student found dead on Friday afternoon. 28-year old Scott Smedinghoff was found deceased in his home on Ela Street on Friday during a wellness check requested after he hadn't been heard from in several days. *The Dartmouth* - the student run newspaper of Dartmouth College - was the first to identify the deceased to be Smedinghoff and police have just recently confirmed this identification to be correct. Lebanon Police Chief Richard Mello said that there was no perceived threat to the general public and the death is not being considered suspicious. An autopsy will determine the exact cause of death. Smedinghoff was a fourth-year graduate student at Dartmouth who was working towards a doctorate in mathematics. He was a pianist for the Dartmouth Wind Ensemble, and the choir director at the First Congregational Church in Thetford, Vermont.

And sticking with news regarding the Lebanon police department, two officers are being awarded tonight for their efforts for saving lives. Officer Christopher Allen and Senior Officer Jonathan Tracy are both receiving a Meritorious Police Service Bar for Lifesaving, which is an award given to any officer who is distinguished by performing physical acts to save a person's life. Officer Allen is being awarded for his response to the Fireside Inn on December 7th to a medical call of an unconscious woman. He gave CPR to the woman, which revived her, and she was transported to the hospital. Senior Officer Tracy and his K-9 named Briggs were involved in a recent story that we had here on YCN News, where a man crashed his car on I-89 and was found in the woods with hypothermia hours later. Senior Officer Tracy and K-9 Briggs were able to track the man to the other side of a creek, where he was rescued. Both officers are being honored at 7 PM tonight at the City Council meeting and all members of the public were invited to attend.

Yet another update tonight in a story from yesterday as residents of Hartford met last night to discuss not only an options tax, but a charter change that would change voting within the town.

A public hearing with the Select board was held last night to allow residents a chance to voice their opinions on a proposed 1% tax on meals, rooms, and alcohol, which is designed to bring in more revenue for the town from tourists or travellers. According to *The Valley News*, the majority of the residents who attended were in favor of the options tax, which would avoid a tax increase on Hartford residents. Also discussed were changes to the charter, which would change how the town votes on town budgets. Instead of the traditional voting structure where a failed town budget would go back in front of voters during a meeting in March, the charter change would bring a failed town budget back to the Select board for them to revise it. After revisions, it would go in front of voters once more for their approval, repeating as many times necessary until it passes. Another public hearing on both matters is slated for Saturday February 27th at the Hartford High School gym.

Well anyone who has turned on the TV recently and flipped through the channels has no doubt seen any number of presidential candidates asking for your vote. Whether

they're slamming each other or convincing you to put a checkmark next to their name, candidates from both parties are taking to the airwaves to spread their message ahead of the upcoming New Hampshire primary. Donald Trump is making headlines with his ad calling for a ban on all muslims entering the U.S., while Marco Rubio has even used footage from one of his competitor's ads - in Jeb Bush - in an ad against the former Florida governor. Candidates like Rand Paul, John Kasich, and aforementioned Marco Rubio, all who rank in the middle of the pack in New Hampshire polls, have been making the rounds in New Hampshire as of late, trying to sway some undetermined minds or convert those who already have their minds made up. The anticipation is in the air, can you feel it? I know we sure can.

Thursday, January 21st. YCN News:

We begin tonight with a developing story right here in Claremont as police arrested two men yesterday in connection with a pair of recent stabbings. The first incident occurred early Sunday morning when a man called 911 reporting that he had been jumped on Trinity Street. When officers responded, they found a man with slashes on his mouth, but the victim refused to cooperate. Two days later, an unidentified individual was admitted to Valley Regional Hospital with stab wounds, and eventually flown to nearby Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center due to the severity of the injuries. Claremont police obtained a search warrant for a Trinity Street property based on the two incidents, and arrested 34-year-old Rahman Brown, of White Plains, New York, and 41-year-old Willie Taylor, of Claremont, as a result of their search. Brown was charged with one count of first-degree assault, with Taylor being charged with two counts of selling crack cocaine in a school zone. Police say additional charges are pending.

On the political beat once more, Former Florida Governor and Presidential Candidate Jeb Bush made another campaign stop in the Lake Sunapee Region. Today, just like Marco Rubio this past weekend, Jeb visited the Sturm Ruger firearms company in Newport and after a private tour of the factory and receiving a gift of a Ruger American bolt-action rifle from Casting Director Randy Wheeler, he spoke to about 50 workers at the plant. He talked about how he would deal with the problems in the Middle East, including how he would deal with ISIS, as well as his record of being governor of Florida. Of special attention as well was Obama's recent executive order on gun control and party front runner, Donald Trump.

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Employees of Ruger then asked him question on topics from gridlock in Washington, the deficit, term limits, congressional pay raises, taxes, the IRS, and social security. Jeb then shook hands and talked one on one with individual employees at Sturm Ruger.

And now with town and school budget season inching closer and closer, Select board s on both sides of the Connecticut River last night voted to approve proposals that will eventually face voters come March. Over in Vermont, the Springfield Select board

voted to adopt a proposed \$11-million dollar operating budget for the 2017 fiscal year, at slightly more than 2.5-percent higher than the town's current budget. Of that amount, a little more than \$9-million dollars will be raised through taxes. Across the river in Charlestown, New Hampshire, a \$4.9-million dollar budget will be presented to voters in March after a unanimous decision from its Select board . The proposal is some \$150-thousand dollars higher than the town's current budget, and includes increased allotments to the town's sewer fund and a restored payment to the West Central Behavioral Health organization. The budget will be up for discussion during Charlestown's annual town meeting Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Crossing back into Vermont, a proposal from the Hartford School Board on its 2017 fiscal budget could lead to the loss of up to 14 jobs if approved by voters. The board unanimously approved the 36-million dollar budget despite several concerns from board members, specifically involving the cut of an estimated 14 positions within the district. Despite coming in at nearly \$200,000 dollars less than the town's current school budget, residents would still face a 3-percent increase in their tax rates if approved. Superintendent Tom DeBalsi presented an original budget one million dollars higher last week, but that proposal - which would have maintained the district's current workforce - would have lead to an increase of 11-percent in property taxes. The *Valley News* reports that the 14 reduced positions is a rough estimate based on an assumption that each eliminated position will save the district \$80,000 in salary and benefit costs.

Friday, January 22nd. YCN News:

We begin tonight as a 32-year-old Newport man was indicted on an additional charge of arson Wednesday as part of a lengthy investigation into a 2014 fire. Police say Anthony Lantas was arrested late last year on one count of burglary to an unattended North Main Street home that was destroyed during an early morning fire in November of 2014. Lantas was handed the additional charge of arson on Wednesday, and is scheduled to be arraigned in Sullivan County Superior Court on Feb. 4. The fire destroyed a single-family home and attached barn at 118 North Main Street in Newport, and prompted an immediate investigation with no power or ignitable sources being provided to the house. Police arrested 39-year-old Frank Magistro back in August on charges of conspiracy to commit burglary - to which he was found guilty and is currently serving a 12-month sentence. Newport Police Chief Jim Burroughs said in a press release that no additional charges are pending, and that their 13-month long investigation is now complete.

And in a story related to one we had yesterday regarding the robbery of the Brattleboro Exit 3 Mobil station on Wednesday, Brattleboro police are looking for the suspect of yet another robbery. According to a press release, police responded to the Avenue Grocery Store on Western Avenue around 9:00 yesterday morning for a reported robbery. Witnesses told police that a white male entered the store, walked around, then walked up to counter and demanded money from the register, saying he had a gun. The robber was given the money and fled eastward towards Union Hill. The suspect is described as being a white male, around 6' tall, medium build, and was wearing a Carhart jacket and

half face mask at the time of the robbery. There were no injuries and the robber did not show a weapon, which he threatened to have. At this point, officials have yet to determine if this robbery is related to two others than have happened since last Friday, including Wednesday's robbery of the Exit 3 Mobil.

An update now in yesterday's top story as two men were arraigned yesterday in connection with two separate stabbing incidents earlier this week. 34-year old Rahman Brown of White Plains, New York and 41-year old Willie Taylor of Claremont were arrested on Wednesday for two stabbings this past weekend. During their arraignment, Brown entered a plea for not guilty and bail was set for half a million dollars while Taylor also pleaded not guilty and is being held on \$100,000 bail. The first stabbing incident occurred early Sunday morning when a man called 911 reporting that he had been jumped on Trinity Street, and when police responded, they found him with slashes on his mouth. Two days later, a second individual was admitted to a local hospital for stab wounds and had to be transported to DHMC. Claremont police obtained a search warrant for a Trinity Street property and arrested both Rahman and Taylor. Both men are being held at the Sullivan County House of Corrections and will take part in probable cause hearings on February 1st.

On an educational note now, a small group in the town of Alstead cleared a major hurdle earlier this month in its race to open a new charter high school in the Monadnock Region. The New Hampshire Board of Education unanimously approved an application for the proposed LEAF School at its Jan. 7 meeting, meaning founders can now take the next steps in applying for available grants. The school would be located in the Mole Hill Theatre on Gilsum Mine Road according to the *Keene Sentinel*, and would be incorporated within the Fall Mountain Regional School District. Founders, including Fall Mountain teach Dakota Benedetto, hope to have the school open by the fall of 2017, making it the third charter school located within the Monadnock Region. The school would be public - and therefore tuition free - and open to any student within the state. It would have a limit of 112 students in all, boiling down to 28 students per grade.

YCN News: we've got news regarding the controversial Act 46 over in Vermont.

Last night in Norwich Vermont, School Board Chair Neil Odell announced that the town would cease talking with the Thetford, Strafford, and Sharon school districts in regards to school consolidation, in order to benefit those towns. Act 46 was signed into law in June by the state of Vermont to group schools together in new districts that would be more sustainable to govern and offers tax incentives and planning grants for schools to consolidate. Norwich is part of SAU 70, the Dresden district, which governs Hanover High School. Students who live in Thetford, Strafford, and Sharon all have school choice and can pay tuition to attend a private school, including Sharon Academy and Thetford Academy. To follow Act 46, Norwich would have to leave SAU 70 or the other above towns would have to give up school choice. Rather than follow either of those options, Norwich has opted to leave the group so that the three other towns can benefit

from the grant money. School choice continues to be the biggest obstacle to Act 46 to date.

News out of White River Junction now as the SEVCA “Good Buy” Thrift Store at the recycling center will be closing its operations. Ending tomorrow, buyers will receive a 20% discount off their purchases at the thrift store, before it closes. SEVCA, which is the Southeastern Vermont Community Action, is a group that serves Windham and Windsor counties to help low-income families. Their Board of Directors recently announced their decision to close the White River Junction store, but will be consolidating the store’s efforts with that of the “Good Buy” Thrift Store located on Hartford Avenue. Reasons for the closing include the increase of curbside recycling pickup, which negated the need for people to go to the recycling center and the store there, as well as the two stores being within seven miles of each other made it hard to support both. SEVCA’s Executive Director Steve Geller says that “it is now clear we need to ‘right-size’ the business to ensure the long-term sustainability of our thrift stores”. The closing of the store will affect three part-time employees.

{SUNAPEE FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENT - (603) 863-4109}

It’s not secret that every kid wants to be a firefighter at some point so this next story goes out to anyone who is still seeking that dream. The Sunapee Fire & EMS Department announced earlier this week that it’s seeking volunteers from community members to help in a variety of positions. According to a press release posted on the town’s website, the department is willing to provide necessary training and equipment to interested volunteers, whether it be for potential firefighters or support staff. The Sunapee Fire & EMS Department serves the community from two fire stations in Sunapee and Georges Mills, and has a fleet of three engines, a ladder, tanker, rescue and forestry vehicles, as well as a boat and off-road equipment. Volunteer applications can be found on the town’s website, and anyone seeking additional information is asked to call Chief Dan Ruggles at 603-863-4109.

{www.HarrisHillSkiJump.com}

And finally tonight, continuing with our winter sports stories, the Harris Hill Ski Jump in Brattleboro Vermont is holding their annual ski jumping competition almost exactly a month from today. As part of the two day event, ski jumpers from around the nation will compete on New England’s only Olympic-size 90 meter hill, offering concessions and a warm beer tent for spectators. On Saturday, February 20th, the Pepsi Challenge US Cup will take place, beginning at 10 AM for trial rounds with the competition itself kicking off around 12:45 in the afternoon, followed by awards. The next day, on Sunday, the Fred Harris Memorial Tournament will be held, following the same schedule as the day before. The jump was built back in 1922 and a competition has been held nearly every year since then, save for a few years when there was no snow. The jump was vandalized in November but has been repaired leading up to next month’s event. For more information on the event, check out HarrisHillSkiJump.com.

Monday, January 25th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with a developing story out of New London, New Hampshire as a fire at a single-family home last night led to at least one firefighter being taken to the hospital for treatment. Crews from the New London Fire Department were alerted of a structure fire on Squires Lane shortly before 10 p.m. last night, and upon arrival, found flames coming from a first-floor bedroom. Crews had the fire under control by midnight, and no other injuries were reported. Authorities have said they believe the fire was caused by smoking materials disposed of improperly. Officials have not released the identity of the injured firefighter, nor was an update on their condition available as of broadcast. *YCN News* will continue to update this story as more information becomes available.

Now on an unfortunately similar note, firefighters throughout the Connecticut River Valley were busy this weekend as fires in both Claremont and Lebanon caused differing amounts of damage. Members of the Claremont Fire Department responded to 208 Main Street shortly after 2:30 Saturday morning to find heavy flames coming from a two-family home. Crews extinguished the blaze within an hour, and while no injuries were reported, a garage and one of two living units were severely damaged. Officials said all of the home's residents were evacuated, including what was described as "numerous pets". In Lebanon, an off duty firefighter is being credited with putting out a fire at multi-unit apartment building late yesterday morning. According to the Lebanon Fire Department, a fire on a fourth-floor balcony at the Timberwood Commons on Mt. Support Road was reported shortly after 10 a.m., and was quickly extinguished with little damage being sustained.

Staying in Lebanon, crews will soon begin the process of removing more than 30 acres of trees on property near Poverty Lane beside the Lebanon Municipal Airport. The work is part of an already controversial airport safety project, which included the installation of two hazard beacons standing more than 90 feet tall this past fall. Several neighbors have contested the project saying the trees create a natural protection from airport noise, but airport manager Rick Dymant announced in a memo to residents last week that the work would begin as scheduled. The work is being done over the winter to prevent damage to surrounding wetlands, with removal scheduled to take place between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. The airport has said all cutting and chipping should be completed by March 1. Once the trees are removed, airport workers will construct a safety fence along the new tree line.

Shifting into Vermont now, both local and federal authorities are looking into the discovery of two skimming devices found on separate ATMs at the Okemo Mountain Resort over the weekend. According to Ludlow Police, the first device - used to illegally obtain information from debit cards including pin numbers - was discovered at the mountain's base lodge by a customer whose card got stuck in the machine. When the customer tried to remove his card from the machine, the device separated from the ATM and fell into his hand. The discovery prompted a search of other ATMs at the

resort and throughout Ludlow, with one additional device being found at the Jackson Gore lodge also at the mountain. The skinning devices are being held as evidence by the Ludlow Police and Secret Service in their investigation, and anyone who may have used the ATMs in recent weeks is urged to contact their banks to replace their cards.

YCN News: there was some trash talking in Brattleboro last week. Literally,

Well last week on YCN, it seemed like there was no end to school budgets, and I'll tell you that there is an end, but we won't see it today. The school board of Norwich Vermont has approved a 5.4 million dollar budget for the Marion Cross Elementary School, set to go in front of residents. In the proposed budget, the expenses are accounted for, but the tax rate for voters has not yet been set or announced, leaving townspeople wondering what the rate will be. As we reported on Friday, with Norwich facing a tough situation with Act 46 in regards to neighboring Vermont towns, the issue of school consolidation has only made it harder to set a tax rate for the new budget. Meanwhile, Act 46 imposes spending caps on schools, but town officials learned just recently that they are exempt from such a cap because they are part of a bi-state district with Hanover NH. Town officials say the budget has already been cut by around \$100,000 and with this exemption, they won't need to enact any more cuts from the proposed budget. The budget will be presented to voters on February 29th, prior to a vote on March 1st.

An update now in a story we've been following since September in the arrest of trail of Dartmouth English professor J. Martin Favor. The 49-year old professor's attorney filed last Wednesday to have the case continue for another 60 days in the felony count of possessing child porn, in order to put together a case and is expected to change his plea at the end of that period. Court documents show the motion citing mental health issues and on Thursday, the motion was approved, granting another 60 days for the case. Favor was arrested on September 3rd after federal officials discovered five videos in his Plainfield, New Hampshire home depicting children engaging in sexual acts. In November, Favor pleaded not guilty to the felony charge and was released on the conditions that he has no unsupervised contact with minors, and continues counseling with a New Hampshire-based sex therapist. Favor had worked at Dartmouth College for 22 years and remains on paid administrative leave.

Another update now, and let me tell you, this story is garbage. The Brattleboro Pay As You Throw Advisory Committee talked trash at last week's Select board meeting, discussing the new trash pickup schedule which is set to go into effect in July. The development comes in the form of a recommendation from the Committee to the Select board that asks for residents to pay for their own trash bins as the price to buy bins from the town will increase later this year. Earlier this month, town officials in Brattleboro voted to reduce the frequency of garbage collection from every week to every other

week. A trash bin was given out free to residents when mandatory recycling was enacted years ago, but with the upcoming bi-weekly pickup schedule, residents will likely need a second or third bin to hold two weeks worth of trash, versus just one week. Currently, to buy another bin from the town, residents can pay \$9, which is a discounted price compared to that at a store. This price is likely to go up in August to draw in more revenue for residents looking to buy another trash can on the bi-weekly pickup schedule.

And finally tonight, it's your dose of Campaign 2016 news. The Democratic presidential candidates are not debating tonight per say, but rather holding a forum event, ahead of the Iowa Caucus on February 1st and the New Hampshire primary on February 9th. In appropriate fashion, the forum is being held in Iowa at 9:00 PM and is hosted by CNN, moderated by Chris Cuomo. Now as I mentioned, this is not a debate as we've seen them so far, but a forum, where candidates will answer questions separately from Iowa Democratic voters. Taking the stage are the steadfast candidates we've become so familiar with, that being Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, and Martin O'Malley. This will be the last time the candidates will be on stage together before the Iowa Caucus, which is one week from today, offering a final chance to sway voters in the Midwestern state. Senator from Vermont Bernie Sanders leads New Hampshire polls while Secretary Clinton leads Iowa by single digits.

Tuesday 26th. YCN News:

We start tonight with news from the Sunapee Fire Department, who responded to a call just before 5 PM last night, but not to a fire. The call came from a neighbor who saw black smoke coming from a chimney of a house at 610 Route 103 in Sunapee. When firefighters responded, a high concentration carbon monoxide at 110 PPM, or parts-per-million, was detected by the fire department personnel in the basement and the cause of the black smoke was determined to be a faulty furnace, which firefighters promptly turned off. The house was then ventilated until the readings were zero. The high concentration of carbon monoxide detected in the home would "kill a person in 15 minutes" according to Chief Ruggles of the Sunapee Fire Department. No one was home at the time but the fire department has contacted the homeowner and the furnace was being repaired Monday night.

Crossing into Vermont now, the town of Hartford is set to hire an interim town manager Feb. 1 as part of an expected contract with a New Hampshire based municipal resources company. According to the *Valley News*, former Keene city manager Patrick MacQueen will come to Hartford on an interim basis until a permanent replacement is hired. MacQueen - a senior staff member at Municipal Resources Inc., - has also served in Enfield, Pelham, Durham, and Berlin through his service in the company. The need for an interim town manager came to when longtime town manager Hunter Rieseberg resigned back in August. The town's Select board then appointed Fire Chief Steve Locke to the role, and was hopeful he would stay in a permanent basis. But Locke announced in December he'd accepted a position as fire chief up in Burlington, to which

his first day is this Friday. The Select board has already narrowed down candidates for a permanent replacement, though uncertainty remains as to when an eventual hire could start.

Staying in the Green Mountain State, members of the Bellows Falls School Board voted last night in the latest development of a proposed justice center in the town. The Board voted to ask the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union to request a formal report into the educational impacts of a proposed federal prison in town. The proposed \$23 million dollar Liberty Mill Justice Center would be built at the former Liberty Paper Co. on Paper Mill Road, and has the potential of bringing up to 60 new jobs to the area according to planners. But residents of the village and surrounding areas have expressed deep concern of the project, with one group going so far as to request a warrant article on the town's budget giving residents the right to deny the project. Board chairman David Clark said during last night's meeting that schools within the district may have differing views on the proposal, and that a report would help the district take an official position on the matter.

And now an update on a story we brought you late last year as a Meriden postal worker pleaded not guilty yesterday to accusations she opened mail to steal money and gift cards. 50-year-old Kim Smith of Hartland entered her plea in the Fifth Circuit Court in Claremont, on three misdemeanor charges including one of carrying a loaded handgun without a license. Smith was cited by Plainfield Police in December, and is accused of stealing 17 gift cards totaling \$920 dollars, and an additional \$200 dollars in cash while working at the post office on the campus of Kimball Union Academy. Residents began complaining about their mail appearing to have been opened back in October, prompting the post office to install a surveillance camera within the facility. Footage from the camera is said to show Smith sorting through mail, setting some aside, and then later opening those pieces and pocketing the contents. A trial is scheduled to begin March 28.

YCN News: we'll delve into some fire safety tips when it comes to smoke detectors in light of the recent fires in our area.

{WOODSTOCK POLICE DEPARTMENT - (802) 457-1420}

A 22-year-old Pomfret, Vermont man was hospitalized yesterday after an early-morning accident on Route 4 in Woodstock. According to police, Nicholas Christian was driving his Pontiac Grand Am east along Route 4 shortly before 3:30 yesterday morning when he allegedly veered into the path of an oncoming tractor-trailer. The operator of the tractor-trailer, Edwin Berry of Wheelock, Vermont, swerved to avoid a head-on collision, but a significant collision still occurred - according to a press release - causing heavy damage to both vehicles. Christian was transported to nearby Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center for treatment of unknown injuries, while Berry was unharmed as a result of the accident. Conditions were dry at the time of the collision, and it was not immediately known whether alcohol or fatigue were factors. Woodstock Police say an

investigation into the crash remains ongoing, and are asking anyone who may have witnessed the collision to contact them at (802) 457-1420.

Well continuing now with a theme we've had since last week in regards to Plymouth Vermont and Act 46 school consolidation, the town is reconsidering school choice. *The Vermont Standard* reports that the schools of the Windsor Central Supervisory Union have recently been discussing the state legislation that might jeopardize school choice in Plymouth, if they decide to join a new unified school district or not. Since the Plymouth Elementary School closed in 2010, students in grades K-12 have been given school choice and tuition to attend schools in neighboring towns such as Killington or other towns in the union. Town expenses have gone up and the school budget has increased nearly 200% to pay for school choice, but with Act 46, the Plymouth School Board is faced with the obstacle of being a choice town in a district with other non-choice towns, which would make it difficult to operate, if at all. The Windsor Central Supervisory Union may form a district of its own, to which Plymouth could join, possibly jeopardizing school choice in the town.

Staying in Vermont tonight, the First Baptist Church in Brattleboro has been bought by a new owner, after suffering from high maintenance and heating costs. *The Brattleboro Reformer* reports that Bob Johnson, who founded Omega Optical, entered a purchase and sale agreement with the church's congregation on Sunday during its annual meeting. The church, located on 190 Main Street, had been suffering from declining membership, costs to heat the building in the winter, and regular maintenance on the structure, which was built in 1867. The costs of the heating amounted to at least \$1800 a month and the building had been up for sale since January 26th last year, when the congregation held their annual meeting. At that time, the building was appraised by the town at around \$890,000 and an anonymous buyer offered \$200,000 for the building. At this time, it's not known if this amount was offered by Johnson, who purchased the building just this past weekend. Johnson's business, Omega Optical, is a technology firm whose parent company already owns another church in Brattleboro.

Finally tonight, in light of the recent fires we've had in our area, which are more prone to happen in winter time, having a functional smoke detector can often mean life or death. The fire in New London Sunday night on Squires Lane gave us a chance to speak with New London Fire Chief Jay Lyon yesterday about the importance of smoke detectors in your home.

SOT

There were no injuries in Sunday's fire, thanks to the functional smoke detector in the home at the time of the fire, as Chief Lyon explained. Smoke detectors cost anywhere from between \$10 to \$100, but no cost is too much when it comes to fire safety.

Wednesday, January 27th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with what was a scary scene in downtown Springfield, Vermont yesterday afternoon as a White River Junction teen flipped her car after striking a Main Street guardrail. Police say 19-year-old Morgan Barber was traveling east on Main Street shortly after noon yesterday when her Toyota Corolla struck a guardrail on the westbound lane and rolled on top of two unoccupied parked vehicles. Barber - who told police she had briefly looked down before crossing into the westbound lane - received minor injuries as a result of the accident. It was not initially known what caused Barber to look down or if a cell phone was involved, though police say an investigation into the accident remains ongoing. The use of handheld electronic devices, which include phones, music players, and laptops, just like in New Hampshire, are banned on Vermont roadways.

And in a similar story, a 63-year-old Cornish, New Hampshire woman was uninjured last night after her mid-sized truck slid off a local roadway and down a steep embankment. According to Cornish Police, Mary Jo Miller lost control of her truck while driving along Center Road shortly after 5:30 yesterday evening, narrowly missing several large trees as she slid down a steep embankment before coming to rest at the bottom. Crews from both the Cornish Fire and Rescue Departments, as well as Golden Cross Ambulance assisted officers on the scene and Miller's vehicle was towed by Plainfield Sales and Service. It is not known what caused Miller to lose control of her vehicle, though police say they do not anticipate charges to be filed. Authorities are reminding drivers to use caution while driving at night - even after warmer days - as melting snow can quickly re-freeze on roadways after sunset.

Staying in New Hampshire and on a higher note, the non-profit organization set to open a medical marijuana dispensary in Lebanon this spring received the green light yesterday to begin growing cannabis at its Manchester location. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services announced yesterday it has granted Temescal Wellness a conditional registration certificate to begin producing medical marijuana. The department voted last summer to allow the Manchester-based company to operate two of the state's first four dispensaries, with one being located in Manchester and the second in Lebanon at the Hanover Road Professional Center off Route 120. Temescal is now the second organization in the state to be given the go-ahead to begin growing, with Rochester-based Sanctuary ATC being granted a conditional certificate earlier this month. Both organizations will need to complete one growth cycle before state officials can inspect the dispensaries and give final approval for their opening. Temescal has said it hopes to open its Lebanon facility at some point this spring.

A Hartland, Vermont resident and expert in environmental energy law has been nominated by New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan to serve as the state's next consumer advocate. If approved by the five-member executive council, Donald Kreis would represent residential ratepayers in the Granite State in proceedings with the Public Utilities Commission. Kreis has a deep resume to support his nomination, including service on the Vermont Supreme Court, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court,

and the United States District Court in Portland, Maine. Kreis also has experience working with the Public Utilities Commission, having spent time as general counsel, hearings examiner and staff attorney for the commission. The position became available when the state's former consumer advocate - Susan Chamberlin - was not reappointed at the conclusion of her term, with the advisory board instead recommending Keir. Keir said in a press release he's honored that Governor Hassan has entrusted him with such an important responsibility.

YCN News: alcohol is now being considered a factor in a crash that occurred on I-89 on Monday.

We're back with a story that's been developing for some time now regarding Lebanon's Mechanic Street, which area commuters know to be one of the busiest roads in the Lebanon area. Governor Maggie Hassan has included around \$3 million as part of her 10-year transportation plan to help fund improvements and upgrades to Mechanic Street. *The Valley News* reports that Lebanon plans to begin work on the road in 2019, including widening the road and possibly adding two rotaries. The cost for the project is estimated at around \$12 million and has technically been on the state improvements list since 1987, but was neglected until recent years. The city has highlighted the project as one of the highest priorities, given the poor road conditions, dangerous intersections along High and Mascoma Streets, and a lack of sidewalks for pedestrians. This project is one of the many in the Upper Valley that Governor Hassan has helped facilitate, including the River Park development on Lebanon's North Main Street.

In Vermont now, an update in yesterday's story involving the collision of a tractor trailer and a car on I-89 Monday. At this time, alcohol is considered to be a factor in the crash, which sent 22-year old Nicholas Christian to the hospital. According to police, Christian was driving his Pontiac Grand Am east along Route 4 shortly before 3:30 Monday morning when he allegedly veered into the path of an oncoming tractor-trailer. The operator of the tractor-trailer, Edwin Berry of Wheelock, Vermont, swerved to avoid a head-on collision, but the vehicles still collided, causing heavy damage to both vehicles. At the scene, Christian showed signs of being impaired by alcohol and police now suspect that driving under the influence was a factor in the crash. Christian was transported to nearby Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center for treatment of unknown injuries, while Berry was unharmed as a result of the accident.

Well continuing on tonight with more Vermont news, regarding budgets, which are prevalent now seeing as it's budget season: Brattleboro Vermont has approved their town budget for fiscal year 2017. *The Brattleboro Reformer* reports that the Select board has been working for the past two weeks to solidify an operating budget and had met eight times to discuss the matter between November and January. Total expenditures and revenues, as the budget stands, will rise by around 4 percent and property taxes

will increase 1.5 percent. Town employees will all receive a 2 percent increase in wages and town equipment replacement was stressed in the new budget.

The Representative Town Meeting is scheduled for March 12th and town officials will hear input from area residents, although they cannot vote. The Meeting has been a tradition in Vermont since 1960 and this year will take place at 8:30 AM at the Brattleboro Area Middle School.

And finally tonight in Windsor Vermont, the development of the proposed solar farm on the state prison property is facing another obstacle as the Select board has expressed their unanimous disapproval to the project. At last night's scheduled Select board meeting, town officials voted to oppose the proposed 19,000 solar array proposed by Green Mountain Power behind the Southeast State Correctional Facility. A proposed question for the Windsor ballot asking if residents oppose the project or not has been scrapped. This vote comes in light of widespread and overwhelming opposition to the site by area residents, who cite wildlife endangerment and an eyesore as reasons to not let the project move forward. Green Mountain Power has put the project on hold and in the face of the opposition and is weighing the future of the development. Despite the town's objections, the project is state-mandated as part of renewable energy goals for Vermont, leaving ultimate control in the state's hands.

Thursday, January 28th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with a plea for help from Claremont Fire Chief Rick Bergeron in allotting his department an additional \$50,000 to cover overtime expenses through the remainder of the fiscal year. Bergeron told the city council during last night's meeting that five of his full-time firefighters are out on paid long-term sick leave due to injuries sustained off duty, forcing the department to rely heavily on its overtime budget to pay its healthy employees to cover shifts. But the \$70,000 dollars the department was allocated in the 2016 budget is all but gone, leaving Bergeron wondering how he'll keep things covered until the end of the fiscal year in June. The Claremont Fire Department currently has a staff of 20 full-time firefighters, two administrators and 12 volunteers. Five full-time firefighters typically cover each of the department's four shifts. Bergeron is slated to report back to the council next month with a formal recommendation.

{Loon Preservation Committee - 603-476-LOON}

This next one goes out to any animal lovers, which I'm sure there are plenty in our area, as five loons were rescued from Lake Sunapee after being trapped in a small open area. On Tuesday, the Loon Preservation Committee and the Lake Sunapee Protective Association rescued the five loons from a small pocket of unfrozen water, where there wasn't enough room to take off. In addition, the loons had molted their primary feathers which causes them to be flightless for a few weeks. Loon Preservation Committee's Senior Biologist, John Cooley, took a small boat out to where the loons were and used a net to grab the birds as they surfaced for air. Cooley was assisted by fellow loon watchers, who, with other volunteers, regularly check the lake for loons and report any sightings. The five rescued birds were banded for future identification and taken to a

sanctuary to recover. Loons should have migrated to the ocean at this point in the year and if you see any yourself on Lake Sunapee, give the Loon Preservation Committee a call at 603-476-LOON.

In education news now, the Dartmouth College Board of Trustees voted yesterday to establish an independent graduate school. The grad school would support more than 1,000 PhD, master's, and postdoctoral students across nearly 30 programs. According to a press release posted on the college's website, the School of Graduate and Advanced Studies - as it will be called - will be the college's first new school in more than a century. The well-known Tuck School of Business is currently Dartmouth's newest school, created back in 1900. The School of Graduate and Advanced Studies is set to open July 1 of this year, with no new buildings needed to be erected on campus. Proponents of the school, including Dartmouth President Phil Hanlon, say a new emphasis on graduate education will attract higher-quality students, while those against it have said the change will diminish Dartmouth's reputation as a small liberal-arts school known for the quality of its undergraduate studies.

Now to huge development in the proposed solar farm in Windsor Vermont, in fact, the final development, as Green Mountain Power has pulled the plug and officially ended the project. This coming after yesterday's update that the town's Select board had unanimously voted to oppose the project during Tuesday night's board meeting. Green Mountain Power and state officials, who were facilitating the 19,000 panel solar array project, have acknowledged that the project is indeed not happening. Green Mountain Power had put the project on hold back in September in the face of town residents widely opposing the solar farm, who claimed the array would endanger wildlife and that Windsor wouldn't even benefit very much from it. The site was slated to be set on a large plot of land behind the Southeast State Correctional Facility and would contribute a considerable amount towards Vermont's renewable energy goals. Opposition group Protect Your Land issued a statement to area residents on their Facebook saying, "Thank you for the doing the right thing for Windsor, for wildlife habitat, and for one of Windsor's hidden gems."

YCN News: another Republican debate is happening tonight but Donald Trump won't be taking part! Details on why when we come back.

Well the city of Claremont received a welcomed nod of approval from a New York financial technology company earlier this month in being named the top place in New Hampshire to retire. Claremont ranked 14th in the Granite State in SmartAsset's inaugural study last year, before jumping to the top spot in time for its second-annual study. The study uses statistics on the number of doctor's offices, recreation centers, retirement centers, and senior citizens in a given area - as well as tax rates - to determine a final rating for every town and city. Claremont topped the list with a rating of 88.4, with Hanover - at 87.5 - and Exeter - at 87.3 - rounding out the top three. Of the municipalities that ranked in the top 10, Hampton boasted the largest amount of senior

citizens at slightly more than 17 percent. Claremont, on the other hand, was fourth in senior citizen population at 15.9 percent. If you're looking to retire soon, Claremont may be the place for you!

In crime news now out of Springfield Vermont, a Bennington man was arrested on outstanding warrants after police were tipped off as to his presence. 52-year old Edward Roy of Bennington was arrested around 10:00 PM last night when Springfield Police responded to a tip saying that a subject wanted on outstanding warrants was believed to be on Carley Road. Officers Logan Defelice and Steven Neily responded to the call to find Roy at a residence and was arrested on multiple outstanding warrants stemming from Bennington County. The warrants included Aggravated Assault with a deadly weapon, Simple Assault, and Violations of Conditions of Release. Roy had been held without bail back in September for allegedly grabbing a woman, scratching and tearing her shirt, and threatening her and her boyfriend with a knife. After yesterday's arrest, Roy was taken to the Southern State Correctional Facility without incident for the outstanding warrants, which amounted to a bail of \$35,000.

Well with less than two weeks remaining before the first in the nation New Hampshire primary, election officials across the Upper Valley met yesterday to discuss final preparations - including the state's new voter identification law. The law - which was passed more than three years ago but will be in effect for the primary for the first time come Feb. 9 - requires all potential voters to display a valid form of identification prior to receiving a ballot. Voters without a valid ID will be asked to fill out an affidavit swearing you are who you say you are, before an election official takes your photograph. Upper Valley officials met at the Fireside Inn & Suites in West Lebanon to discuss concerns about the law, including what officials should do if they recognize someone without a valid ID. Many officials are expecting little to no issues on election night, though, as it's thought that most voters already head to the polls with valid identification.

And finally tonight, there will be some votes cast prior to New Hampshire's Feb. 9 primary, in the form of next Monday's Iowa Caucuses. And voters in that state and nationwide will get another chance to see the Republican candidates for President go at it in a debate, with Fox News slated to host the party's 7th debate tonight in Des Moines, Iowa. However, viewers may notice something right off the bat: party front-runner and business mogul Donald Trump will be absent from the stage, a move that was a choice of his own. The reasoning? Trump claims that FOX moderator Megyn Kelly treated him unfairly during the candidate's first FOX debate on August 6th. Instead of debating with the rest of the candidates, including second place candidate Ted Cruz and third place candidate Marco Rubio, Trump will be holding a counter-event at the same time where he will be fundraising for veterans. It is still unknown how this event can be viewed, but the regular debate can be seen on FOX at 9 PM tonight.

Friday, January 29th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with news out of Newport, New Hampshire as crews responded to a small fire yesterday evening at the Sturm Ruger manufacturing building on Sunapee Street. Members of the Newport Fire & EMS Department responded to the firearms company at approximately 8:30 p.m. last night to find a small fire within one of the plant's machines. Firefighters used their own extinguishers to put out the blaze, and deemed the fire under control shortly before 9 p.m. The cause of the fire remains unknown according to an incident report, though it is not being considered suspicious. Sturm Ruger has been manufacturing firearms for more than 60 years, with three locations inside the U.S. including plants in Arizona and North Carolina. The Newport facility has made headlines in recent weeks, garnering visits from Republican presidential candidates Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush. Nobody was injured as a result of last night's fire, and crews were back at the station shortly after 9 p.m.

Turning to school budgets now, SAU 43 Superintendent Cindy Gallagher will ask that an additional amount of money be added to Newport's budget proposal. Her request would see \$318,000 dollars added to Newport's \$17.2-million dollar budget proposal at the school board's next deliberative hearing on Tuesday. Gallagher announced her plans during a public hearing last night, saying the money will allow the district a one-year delay in implementing a previously proposed grade reconfiguration. Gallagher said she planned to implement the changes next year, but an already constrained budget has forced the reconfiguration a year early. According to the plan, the district would move fifth-graders to the Towle Elementary School from Richard Elementary School, sixth graders to Newport Middle High School from Towle, and kindergarten to Towle from Richards. If the additional funds are not approved, Gallagher said she would be forced to cut teaching positions to reach the bottom line. Approving the additional funds would lead to a \$2.25 increase in the town's current tax rate.

Now in a story that affects both sides of the Connecticut River, officials announced earlier this week that the historic Charles N. Vilas Bridge connecting Walpole, NH to Bellows Falls, Vt., will likely permanently remain closed to vehicular traffic. The bridge - which is jointly owned by both states - was closed back in March of 2009 by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation after a semi-annual inspection deemed the structure unsafe due to deteriorating concrete. At the time of its closing, an average of 4,600 vehicles crossed the bridge on a daily basis, with numerous others crossing by foot or bicycle. Vermont has made several attempts to encourage its neighbor to address the issues, with the most recent coming in 2014. But the project wasn't included in the DOT's recently released 10-year-plan, leaving those in the Green Mountain State with no foreseeable path to its reopening. The Vilas Bridge was built in 1930 and spans 635 feet across the Connecticut River.

The 2016 New London Winter Carnival began their festivities last night with a fun filled broom hockey game on the Bob Andrews Memorial Ice Rink next to the New London Inn. Children, parents, and Colby Sawyer College students tried their hand running on ice to hit a large ball with a broom and score a goal. After the game, it was time for the Freezin' for a Reason underwear run where over 30 runners in their underwear and

other assorted costumes ran a half mile from the New London Inn to the New London Fire Station and back. The first male runner across the finish line was TJ Ellis from Goshen and the first female was Stephanie Wilks from New London. The New London Winter Carnival continues tonight with a magic show, wagon rides, and the Jack Frost Progressive Dinner. Tomorrow, New London's Winter Carnival has a full day of events scheduled including a ski joring demonstration, a scavenger hunt, face painting, dodgeball, and the carnival ends with fireworks behind the old middle school starting at 6pm. Should be a blast for all those attending.

YCN News: police in Springfield Vermont arrest a 22-year old on an outstanding warrant for counterfeiting.

Well for those of you trimming your trees and shrubs at this time of year in Sunapee, here's an announcement you won't want to miss. Starting February 1st, residents of Sunapee and Springfield will not be able to take brush to the transfer station in Sunapee until further notice. This according to a press release from Scott Hazelton, the Sunapee Town Highway Director. The vendor who had been taking the brush, has informed the town of Sunapee that they will no longer be doing so. When asked by YCN, Highway Director Hazelton did not know the reasoning behind the vendor's decision to stop receiving brush. In light of this, the town will actively be looking for a new vendor to process the natural waste, according to the press release, and there will be an update about on situation after Sunapee's voting day in March. The transfer station is located at 23 Edgemont Road and is open every day of the week except Tuesday and Wednesday. Hours vary per day and you can check the town of Sunapee's website for more information, including a fact sheet.

Well in crime news now, in a story that will seem familiar to those of you who joined us last night, police in Springfield Vermont have made yet another arrest on an outstanding warrant. Around 10:30 PM last night, Officer Logan Defelice and Corporal Michael Gilderdale responded to an apartment building on Summer Hill in Springfield to search for a subject who had an active arrest warrant on him. At the residence, police found 22-year-old Evan Willey, of Springfield, who was wanted on an outstanding warrant issued by Vermont Superior Court, Windsor Criminal Division. Willey was arrested without incident on the warrant for felony counterfeiting and possession. Back in 2013, Willey, 18-years-old then, was arrested after he raided a refrigerator in a cooking classroom at Springfield High School. He was found eating a bagel and frozen yogurt by police in an adjacent room, claiming he was homeless and had no other choice. After last night's arrest for counterfeiting, Willey was transported and lodged at the Southern State Correctional Facility.

Staying in Vermont tonight, all occupants including two children, are safe after a house fire in Putney yesterday morning. According to a press release from the Putney Fire Department, homeowner Shane Goldsmith called 911 around 7:30 yesterday morning to report a fire in his home. Shane and his wife Stephanie awoke to the sound of their

infant crying through the baby monitor and quickly discovered that a fire had started in their living room. Stephanie, Shane, their two children, and their dogs, were all safely evacuated from the home. Two cats succumbed to the fire and the home suffered significant heat and smoke damage. The fire was under control by 8 AM, but Shane had to be transported to a nearby hospital for smoke inhalation and exposure while the rest of the family remained in the care of the Putney Fire Department. The cause of the fire was deemed electrical and the home is now unlivable for the Goldsmith family. Currently, the Windham Foundation is providing a home for the family and their dogs and any donations can be given to the Putney Fire Department.

Well if you haven't signed up for health coverage for the 2016 calendar year already, Sunday is the deadline to avoid stiff fines to be levied in your federal tax return. Sunday's deadline marks the second and final chance for individuals to get coverage as part of the 2010 Affordable Care Act - also known as Obamacare - or to change their existing coverage for the remainder of the year. While the majority of Twin States residents get their health insurance through plans offered by their employers, the Affordable Care Act allows residents without coverage to choose a plan that fits their income without fear of rejection. Individuals in New Hampshire can browse plans by visiting www.healthcare.gov, or by calling 1-800-318-2596. Over in Vermont, residents should check out www.vermonthhealthconnect.gov, or call 1-855-899-9600. And just a heads up that if you plan on signing up on the phone, be prepared to spend a little bit of time on hold.

Monday, February 1st. YCN News:

An update tonight in last Thursday's story involving five loons rescued from Lake Sunapee after they were trapped in a small pocket of water, which is a story that has been receiving a lot of attention on our social media. The Lake Sunapee Protective Association has announced that three of the five rescued loons were released back into the wild on Wednesday, two days after their rescue. The Loon Preservation Committee has been handling the rehabilitation and release of the birds and has tagged each one with an identification band, one of which was already tagged in 1998 at Sand Pond. Meanwhile, the two other loons are still being cared for by the Avian Haven, one of which will hopefully be released soon. The fifth loon's condition isn't as promising, as blood tests show a high level of lead in the bird's bloodstream and an X-ray shows a lead sinker in its gastrointestinal tract. Caretakers are working to save the loon and there will be an update on the bird's condition in the future.

In crime news now, a 46-year-old Lebanon man is facing multiple charges after a single-vehicle accident on Route 5 in St. Johnsbury, Vermont on Friday. According to Vermont State Police, troopers responded to an accident near the Northeast Regional Correctional Facility shortly after 10 p.m. Friday night to find an intoxicated William Howell at the bottom of an embankment. Officers believe Howell hit several guardrails along Route 5 before leaving the roadway, and the man was not injured as a result of the accident. During their investigation, troopers determined that Howell's license was

under criminal suspension at the time of the accident, and that he had reported his own vehicle stolen in Lake City, Florida. Howell - who also had a warrant out for his arrest in Vermont - refused to provide a preliminary breath sample, and was arrested on multiple charges including driving under the influence. Howell was held at the Northeast Regional Correctional Facility for lack of \$10,000 bail.

In other Vermont crime news, it was a busy day for Vermont State Police Saturday as troopers seized nearly two pounds of processed marijuana, about \$30,000 dollars in cash, and more than a hundred marijuana plants from a Westminster residence. Police were alerted of the operation by an anonymous call, and once on the scene at the 148 Beechnut Lane home, troopers located evidence of marijuana. Troopers returned to the home hours later after securing a search warrant, and seized 181 plants, nearly 2 pounds of the drug, and a substantial amount of cash, according to the incident report. Police also seized cultivation equipment from the residence, and arrested 42-year-old Anthony Bugatch on two felony charges of cultivation and possession of marijuana. Bugatch was processed and released from the Vermont State Police Rockingham Barracks, and was cited to appear in the Vermont Superior Court Windham County Criminal Division on March 8.

Now turning to town budgets, residents of Charlestown, New Hampshire will meet Wednesday night to discuss the town's budget, totalling nearly \$5-million dollars and 17 attached warrant articles. The proposal for the 2017 fiscal year comes in at nearly \$200,000 dollars more than the town's current budget - which would be adopted by default budget if voters do not accept the current proposal. Of the proposed budget, about \$4 million would cover the town's operating budget, with an additional \$450,000 covering water costs and the final \$350,000 going toward its sewer fund. The town is also asking voters to weigh in on 17 additional warrant articles, including a potential 10-year lease of a new front-end loader for the highway department. The vehicle will cost the town approximately \$200,000 dollars and an another warrant article asks for the purchase of a jaws of life hydraulic rescue tool. Wednesday's meeting will be held at town hall and begin at 6:30 p.m., with a second session - including voting - to be held March 8.

Now an update in a story we brought you Friday, regarding the Sunapee Transfer Station. Last week, it was announced that the station would no longer be accepting brush, as the vendor who normally picks it up, would no longer doing so. However, the town has found a new vendor based out of Contoocook that will accept the natural waste for free. Highway Director Scott Hazelton commented on our story on Facebook, saying that the new vendor will be picking up the brush effective immediately. The transfer station is located at 89 Avery Road and is open every day of the week except Tuesday and Wednesday. Hours vary per day and you can check the town of Sunapee's website for more specific information.

YCN News: Mount Ascutney is finally reopening this weekend! Details and all you need to know when we come back.

Well as we brought you on Friday, the New London Winter Carnival was in full swing with many activities both Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. Friday started off with a magic show at the Whipple Town Hall where Markus and Angelique Steelgrave, from Maine, entertained a sold out audience of children and adults with their many magic tricks and illusions. On Friday evening, area residents were treated to the sold out Jack Frost Progressive dinner that featured culinary treats from area restaurants. On Saturday, the Winter Carnival began the day with a farmers market in Whipple Hall followed by a scavenger hunt, and a hot chocolate bar provided by New London Hospital. The New London Rotary Club provided hot dogs and hamburgers all day and the always popular ski joring demonstration was held on the Sargent Common early in the afternoon. The New London Winter Carnival ended with a bang you might say, with s'mores and fireworks behind the old middle school.

So what would you do if you looked outside your home and saw someone you didn't know sitting in their car, looking at your home, and typing things into a computer? Well if you live in Woodstock Vermont and you see such a thing in the next few weeks, do not be alarmed. The New England Municipal Resource Center are set to complete Woodstock's town-wide reappraisal and will be doing so in following weeks, even including inspections of the inside of residents' homes, with the homeowner's consent. The Resource Center had sent out postcards prior to their visit to defuse any suspicion of their employee's behavior as they complete their analysis. However, Woodstock Police say they've had one call come in so far, reporting suspicious behavior of the inspectors. The reappraisal is being done to essentially re-match the value of homes with their assessed value. The state of Vermont recommends that towns be reappraised every ten years, unless their appraisal falls below 80 percent, in which case it's mandatory. Woodstock was reappraised back in 2001 but had a more recent inspection last year.

Staying in Vermont and sticking with a story we've had since last fall, Mount Ascutney is finally reopening after six years. No, don't expect the high speed quad and full mountain coverage on every trail, but rather, a rope tow, fat biking terrain, snowshoeing, and back-country skiing. Volunteer group Mt. Ascutney Outdoors and the Trust for Public Land are co-hosting an inaugural winter fest and rope tow dedication this Saturday to kick off, as they call it, a new chapter of recreation and conservation. It begins at 9:00 AM with the Fatscutney Fat Bike Race, then a Tiki Torch Snow Shoe, and at 11:30, the rope tow dedication and conservation celebration ceremony. And what's a winter fest without food? There will be lunch provided by the Maple Kitchen as well as s'mores by the fire. Following the dedication, Mt. Ascutney will be open to the public for skiing, riding, biking, and snowshoeing. YCN will be there this weekend and we'll bring you a look at the festivities on Monday.

Finally tonight in Campaign 2016 news, it is finally the day where citizens of the United States will get their first glimpse at who the next president may be, in the form of the Iowa Caucus. The caucus will be wrapping up at 10:00 tonight and will mark the first time that candidates will get real results aside from poll numbers. Tomorrow, regardless of the caucus results, Republican John Kasich and Democrat Bernie Sanders will be touring New Hampshire, with stops in Claremont, as part of looking ahead to the primary next week. The Ohio Governor will be stopping at the Common Man Inn at 12:30 PM. Tickets aren't required but you can RSVP for free through Eventbrite. Meanwhile, the Vermont Senator will be speaking at the Claremont Opera house at 5:00 PM. You can register for this event through the main Bernie Sanders campaign website. New Hampshire's presidential primary is taking place next Tuesday, February 9th.

Tuesday, February 2nd. YCN News:

We begin tonight with the news of the day all across the nation as the results from the Iowa Caucus are in. Ted Cruz has won the Republican party, even overcoming Donald Trump, who took second place, while both Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton tied at roughly 50 percent each. Meanwhile, Ohio Governor John Kasich finished 8th, but that didn't stop him from touring NH today. At half past noon, Kasich was at the Veterans Hall in Newbury, persuading around 50 voters to offer their vote for him during New Hampshire's primary next Tuesday.

SOT

I should note that this was Kasich's 90th town hall style meeting in New Hampshire. Kasich has garnered more popularity in New Hampshire than Iowa, where he currently ranks 3rd, behind Trump and Cruz, according to poll numbers.

Staying here in Claremont in crime news, a 34-year-old man charged with two separate stabbings on Trinity Street last month will remain behind bars unless a half million dollar judge-ordered bail is posted. Bail was set yesterday after a probable cause hearing at the Fifth Circuit Court, in which Rahman Brown - a tenant of a Trinity Street group home - was charged with stabbing two separate people during incidents on Jan. 17 and 19 of this year. The case will now go to the Sullivan County Superior Court for a possible indictment by a grand jury. According to court documents, Brown is accused of striking the first man in the face while holding brass knuckles with a blade attached, causing a laceration to the victim's face. Two days later, surveillance footage from a nearby building allegedly shows Brown reaching into a vehicle to stab a man during a drug deal. The victim in that incident was able to drive himself to nearby Valley Regional Hospital. No weapons from either incident were recovered by authorities.

Shifting to education now, a large crowd of over 80 residents turned out last night for the Sunapee School District's deliberative session at the Middle High School Gym. The school operating budget of around 12 million dollars passed on a voice vote after a few questions from Sunapee residents Dan Bettencourt and John Augustine. The 2.3%

increase in the budget was mostly due to an increase in health insurance costs and the purchase of a new school bus, according to Superintendent of Schools Russell Holden. The teachers contract also generated little discussion and was passed on a voice vote. The increase in costs for teachers salaries in 2016-17 will be around \$85,000, followed by an increase to \$135,000 in 2017 -18 and \$144,000 in 2018 -19. All other articles, including paving more of the middle high school parking lot and capital reserve funds for special education and capital improvements for the school buildings, all passed without discussion. All school articles will now be voted on by ballot vote at Sunapee's town meeting to be held on March 8th.

Well in light of recent stories about loons, we've got more avian news for you tonight. In Wilmot, the town's Public Library recently celebrated the Days of the Blackbird for their third year in a row on Friday. The Days of the Blackbird, January 29th, 30th, and 31st, are supposedly the coldest of year and are chronicled in a book by renowned children's author, Tomie DePaola. The author came up with the idea for the book while eating at La Meridiana in Wilmot, a local eatery owned by Piero Canuto. In celebration of the book and the time of year, local thespians Jay and Linda Lambert conducted a dramatic reading of the book and children got to act out the part by creating blackbird masks. Caroline Fairless and Jim Sims, who are responsible for the summer puppets as part of the Wilmot Community Association, helped children create their blackbird masks. Kids and grownups alike took part in the fun to celebrate the literature that was inspired locally.

YCN News: we've got an update in the controversial proposed prison in Bellows Falls.

Let me ask you, have you ever complained about the parking situation in Hanover New Hampshire? Well if you have, a planned new parking garage may be a promising sign. A proposed zoning amendment proposed by Dartmouth College could lead to the construction of a parking garage along West Wheelock Street as part of a campus expansion plan. If approved by the Hanover Zoning Board, the amendment would extend the campus's institutional district to the intersection of West Wheelock and Thayer Driver, allowing the college to build a structure up to 60 feet high as opposed the current 35-foot guidelines. The garage would allow for additional parking needed after the displacement of several spots due to construction of the new Thayer School of Engineering building nearby. Residents of the area have already expressed concern, though, including potential traffic impacts as well as the structure's size and location. The planning board is hosting a public hearing on the proposal tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the town offices, though no final decision from the board is expected tonight.

An update now in the controversial proposed justice center in Bellows Falls as an engineering report on the build site will be available to the public tomorrow. *The Brattleboro Reformer* reports that Windham County Sheriff County Clarke is expecting a

report to be delivered to him at some point tomorrow from Stevens and Associates on the structural integrity and suitability of the former Liberty Paper Company building. The proposed prison development would rehabilitate and convert the old building into the Liberty Mill Justice Center, capable of holding both federal and state inmates. Last Monday, the town's school board voted to ask the Windham Northeast Supervisory Union to request a formal report into the educational impacts of a proposed federal prison in town. Years ago, Bellows Falls residents opposed a prison proposal in their town. After hearing the renewed idea, residents have still expressed deep concern of the project, with one group going so far as to request a warrant article on the town's budget giving residents the right to deny the project.

Now to Newport, New Hampshire, who is holding their school district deliberative session as we speak. The meeting kicked off at 6 PM in the gymnasium of the Newport Middle High School and was organized to allow residents and voters to weigh in on the school budget for fiscal year 2016-2017, prior to the Annual School District Meeting on Tuesday, March 8th. A public hearing was held last Thursday with around 40 residents, who offered input on the proposed budget. At that meeting, SAU 43 Superintendent Cindy Gallagher requested that \$318,000 dollars be added to Newport's \$17.2-million dollar budget proposal at the tonight's deliberative hearing. Gallagher said that the money will allow the district a one-year delay in implementing grade shifting across Newport's schools. She further said that she planned to implement the changes next year, but an already constrained budget has forced the reconfiguration a year early. One of tonight's hot topics of discussion is the raising of 6 million dollars through property taxes, which would mean an additional \$1.50 per \$1000 on the property tax rate. We will update you as this story progresses.

And finally tonight, have you ever wished you could bring your favorite movie to life? Well some local karate students brought the new movie Kung Fu Panda 3 to life over the weekend. This past Saturday in the morning, students from the Rising Sun Martial Arts studio in Newport held karate demonstrations at the Claremont Cinema. Rising Sun Martial Arts owner Kyoshi Brent Baker rented the theater for a private showing of Kung Fu Panda 3 for high school students, their families, and friends. Over 200 hundred guests came and watched students spar with each other, demonstrate different karate moves and techniques, as well as break boards with their bare hands and feet. And after all this? They watched the movie of course, to see pandas doing the same thing. Movie goers at the private screening also had the opportunity to try the moves for themselves and break boards with their hands. As a bonus during the movie, free tee shirts and a movie poster were given away.

Wednesday, February 3rd. YCN News:

We begin tonight with news out of Vermont as a fire at a Hartford apartment building yesterday landed one man in the hospital and left five families scrambling for shelter. Crews from the Hartford Fire Department responded to the structure on 1661 Maple Street shortly after 4 p.m. yesterday afternoon to find heavy smoke exiting the second

floor. Firefighters initially entered the building with hopes of extinguishing the blaze from within, but were soon evacuated due to the heat, and forced to use ladder trucks to combat the fire from the outside. Crews from nearby Hanover, Lebanon, Norwich, Hartland, Woodstock and Windsor assisted Hartford on the scene, and the fire was deemed under control before 6 o'clock. Authorities say the fire began in the kitchen of a second-floor apartment, and injured the tenant who had tried to control the fire. He was transported to nearby Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center for treatment, though no additional information into his condition or identity were made available.

Jeb Bush presidential candidate and former Florida governor made was in the area today this afternoon. He made his third campaign stop of the day at the Ware Campus Center at Colby Sawyer College. Bush met with and talked to over 100 college students and area residents touching on subjects ranging from the military to social security and the federal debt. Jeb took questions from the audience for over half an hour and answered questions on foreign police to student debt.

SOT

Jeb Bush wrapped up the hour long town hall meeting posing for pictures and signing autographs.

And now updating two stories we've been following for some time as the New Hampshire Board of Education yesterday approved withdrawal plans for both Newport and Croydon in their attempt to leave SAU 43 in favor of two separate single-town districts. The school boards of both towns approved withdrawal proposals late last year before submitting them to the DOE, and the measures will now go to voters in March for final approval. If residents approve the plan by a 60-percent margin, the single-town districts would be implemented in time for the 2017 school year. SAU 43 currently incorporates the towns of Newport and Croydon, with funding for the district determined through enrollment and property value statistics. Newport now pays 90 percent of costs in comparison to Croydon's 10, though it's been argued that Croydon should pay about \$25,000 a year more based on the most recent statistics. Those in favor of the withdrawal plans believe single-town districts would save both towns money in the long run.

Well it's time for some solar news out of Vermont. No, not the Windsor solar farm, as that project was ended just recently, but rather, Springfield Vermont, where the school district will be saving a pretty penny going solar. The savings will kick in later this year when an attached solar grid is powered up, offering lower priced electricity to school districts and supervisory unions that joined a consortium last year. However, Sun Edison, one of the companies who took the helm to build and manage the solar sites, have not yet submitted their plan to the Public Service Board. School officials have instead signed on with a different provider, Nexamp Capital LLC, which would provide around 40% of the Springfield School District's electricity from a solar field that is already approved and under construction. Director of Fiscal Services, Steve Hier, said

that the school district will save around 36% off of its electrical costs from Green Mountain Power. Generally, solar contracts require a 20-year commitment.

YCN News: the town budget was the topic of discussion at Sunapee's deliberative session yesterday.

We're back with crime news now out of Lebanon, New Hampshire as a woman was arrested on two felony counts for drug possession. According to a press release from Lebanon Police, around 1:15 this morning, officers pulled over 31-year old Shannon Lundy of Franklin on Interstate 89 for speeding. During the traffic stop, officers detected signs of possible drug use. An investigation of the vehicle yielded both methamphetamine and buprenorphine, a pain reliever, in Lundy's possession. As a result, she was arrested on two counts of Possession of a Narcotic Drug, both of which are Class B Felonies. Lundy was held on cash bail and was arraigned this morning in the 2nd Circuit Court, Lebanon District where she was issued a continuance of the bail in the amount of \$2,500 cash bail or surety. Today's arrest comes after a drug bust of a meth lab in Lebanon late last week, involving a North Carolina man and a Sharon Vermont woman. Officials have noted that the use of methamphetamine, or meth, is on the rise in New Hampshire and police are actively working to combat the drug's prevalence.

Now an update on an announcement we brought you on Monday. Due to the weather and lack of much snow, the planned reopening ceremony of Mt. Ascutney this Saturday has been hindered and will no longer have the planned Winter Fest activities. The "Fatscutney" fat biking race, tiki torch snow shoe, and skiing have been cancelled because of the lack of favorable conditions, or in other words, there isn't enough snow. However, the rope tow dedication ceremony will still be held and visitors are invited to attend the groundbreaking of a new era for Mount Ascutney. The event is being co-hosted by volunteer group Mt. Ascutney Outdoors and the Trust for Public Land, the latter of which purchased the land back in December. Mount Ascutney opened in the 1940s but closed in 2010 due to financial troubles. The lodge was lost to a fire early last year, which is still owned by MFW Associates, the former owner of the entire ski area. Saturday's dedication is scheduled for 11:30 AM and all are invited to attend.

Well yesterday we told you about Sunapee's school district deliberative session. Last night, it was time for the town budget where around 80 residents from the town met to discuss the town's budget and other warrant articles at this year's deliberative session at the Sunapee Middle High School. An amendment proposed by town resident and Budget Advisory Committee Member Don Bettencourt to cut around \$50,000 from the town budget of almost 7 million was turned down before the amendment could be even be voted on. Sunapee resident Sean Carroll felt that Bettencourt had his chance to trim the town's budget in his role as a budget advisor and that he could not propose an amendment to cut the budget now. Moderator Harry Gale agreed, as did majority of the

voters present at the meeting, thus, the amendment was not submitted. The only other article that raised questions was Article 20 to raise \$50,000 to eradicate an invasive reed species at the Sunapee Water Treatment Plant. Questions were answered on the article and it passed by voice vote as did all other articles at the meeting. The Sunapee town budget and all other articles will now be voted on by ballot on March 8.

And in Campaign 2016 news, the race is heating up in New Hampshire, ahead of next Tuesday's first in the nation primary. The University of New Hampshire in Durham is hosting a Democratic Debate tonight, in conjunction with MSNBC. It kicks off at 9 PM and will be moderated by Chuck Todd and Rachel Maddow. Taking the stage will not be three, but two candidates, as former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley has dropped out of the race following Monday's Iowa Caucus, where he pulled a low 0.6% vote. Senator Bernie Sanders and Secretary Hillary Clinton, who tied at roughly 50% apiece on Monday, will fight for control of the Granite State. According to Real Clear Politics, Sanders leads in New Hampshire by double digits, but as we've seen in Iowa in regards to Cruz's victory over Donald Trump, poll numbers aren't a true gauge of who will win a certain state. You can catch tonight's debate either on TV or online at NBCNews.com and MSNBC.com. Twitter will also be fostering a discussing tonight with the hashtag #DemDebate. If you're an undecided Granite State Democrat, tonight's debate is a good opportunity to hear from both candidates before next week's vote.

Thursday, February 4th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with an update on our top story from yesterday as a Hartford, Vermont man remains in critical condition in a Burlington hospital after a Tuesday evening fire that destroyed a four-unit apartment building. Authorities have still not identified the individual - who is said to have suffered serious burns while trying to extinguish the blaze in his kitchen - though posts on the Hartford Fire Department's Facebook page identify him as Charles Crooks. The University of Vermont Medical Center confirmed to YCN News that a patient by that name was being treated at the Burlington Hospital. It took crews from eight departments nearly two hours to control the fire at 1661 Maple Street in Hartford, with excessive damage deeming the building unlivable. Crews from the American Red Cross have been assisting the building's 12 displaced tenants, providing them prepaid debit cards to help pay for immediate necessities like food, shelter, and clothing.

In Campaign 2016 news, which we can't get enough of recently, New Jersey Governor and presidential candidate Chris Christie made a campaign stop at Village Pizza in Newport today at lunch time. During his visit, Christie shook hands, signed autographs, and had photos taken with area residents. Christie then spoke briefly to the local residents and thanked them for their support and hope that they will vote for him on February 9.

SOT

Christie had a town hall meeting earlier in the day in Keene and was headed to New England College for a town hall meeting later this afternoon.

Well it may not be the season for local stock car racing, but that didn't stop the Claremont Speedway from looking ahead to later this year. Officials from Speedway met with the city's licensing board and concerned residents last night, and left with the green light to go ahead with its proposed 2016 schedule after several compromises. Claremont Speedway is in its second year under the ownership of Jim Ambrose, after buying what was then called Twin State Speedway from Dennis Fleury in December of 2014 for a little more than half a million dollars. In 2016, there are seven planned event dates and a new change is that race practices will now be at least two hours earlier. Concerned residents voiced opinions about live band performances in regards to the type of music played and how it would affect crowd security and safety. Track officials were not in favor of removing live bands from the year's events, but agreed to let them go. Another compromise with neighbors of the track was that there would be no more Monday night practice. The season is scheduled to begin in May.

Crossing back into Vermont now, a 36-year-old Hartland man pleaded guilty Tuesday to two misdemeanor charges after flashing a handgun at a passing motorist back in September. Benjamin Walker pleaded guilty to charges of reckless endangerment and providing false information to a law enforcement officer at the Windsor Superior Court, and was sentenced to serve 12 days on a work crew and pay a \$400 fine. Walker had faced a third misdemeanor charge of aggravated disorderly conduct for brandishing the firearm while waiting with his son at a bus stop, but the charge was dismissed by prosecutors as part of a plea deal. According to police, Walker originally told officers he pointed a finger at the passing motorist on the morning of Sept. 22, and then changed his story saying he showed a holstered handgun, but never pointed it. Walker had originally plead not guilty to the charges back in October before agreeing to a plea deal with prosecutors earlier this year.

YCN News: Brattleboro looks to the railroads when it comes to energy conservation.

A 24-year-old Maine man plead not guilty earlier this week for his role in a fatal crash last summer on Interstate 91 in Norwich. Mason Morissette pleaded not guilty to one felony count of gross negligent operation of a vehicle with death resulting, and a misdemeanor count of gross negligence Tuesday in Windsor Superior Court. Morissette's logging truck hit the disabled truck of 54-year-old David Stefanik on Aug. 17, while the Florida man was pulled over in the breakdown lane tending to a flat tire. Police found during their investigation that Morissette had been texting about 15 minutes before the fatal crash, though prosecutors have not publicly acknowledged what they believe distracted him at the time of the accident. Morissette was released after Tuesday's hearing on a \$10,000 unsecured appearance bond, and will next

appear in Windsor Superior Court March 7. If convicted of the charges, Morissette could face up to 17 years in prison.

And speaking of prisons tonight, the proposed justice center in Bellows Falls has hit a minor roadblock as an analysis of the building site shows structural and water damage. According to *The Brattleboro Reformer*, an engineering report completed by Stevens and Associates was given to Windham County Sheriff Keith Clark and part of it was released yesterday. Sheriff Clark has denied multiple requests to release the report in its entirety, which shows that the former Liberty Paper Company mill building is in adequate condition for rehabilitation but has suffered water damage and would require stabilization. The building has suffered from vandalism and would require yet another analysis to determine the extent of repairs needed to bring the building to working order. The Windham County Sheriff's Department's proposal for the prison has been a source of controversy in the town, with concerned citizens banding together to oppose the project. Meanwhile, the Bellows Falls School Board is seeking a report on the education impacts of having a prison in town, which would hold both federal and state inmates.

Staying in Brattleboro tonight, the town's Energy Committee is looking to the railroads to reduce energy consumption, after hearing from a guest speaker at Monday night's meeting. Christopher Parker, who is the Executive Director of the Vermont Rail Action Network, attended the meeting at the request of the committee and spoke about energy efficiency when it comes to railroads. Parker suggested expanded train routes, stops along the Connecticut River Valley, and railroad repairs, which would lead to quicker trips. The board has decided to draft a letter in support of the above improvements, which would require political backing. Parker's group, the Vermont Rail Action Network, tries to convert support of the rail system in Vermont into an active movement to further rail travel across the state. Meanwhile, the Brattleboro Energy Committee works to reduce energy consumption through conservation and energy efficiency. The two groups' combined effort will work towards Vermont's energy goals.

And in Campaign 2016 news, yesterday we incorrectly told you that a Democratic debate was occurring last night. Now there wasn't a debate, but a forum rather in Derry New Hampshire. The debate will be happening *tonight* at the University of New Hampshire in Durham in conjunction with MSNBC. It kicks off at 9 PM and will be moderated by Chuck Todd and Rachel Maddow. Taking the stage will not be three, but two candidates, as former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley has dropped out of the race following Monday's Iowa Caucus, where he pulled a low 0.6% vote. Senator Bernie Sanders and Secretary Hillary Clinton, who tied at roughly 50% apiece on Monday, will fight for control of the Granite State. You can catch tonight's debate either on TV or online at NBCNews.com and MSNBC.com. Twitter will also be fostering a discussing tonight with the hashtag #DemDebate. If you're an undecided Granite State Democrat, tonight's debate is a good opportunity to hear from both candidates before next week's vote.

Friday, February 5th. YCN News:

Well with just four days remaining before Granite State voters take to the polls for the nation's first primary, a little bit of controversy has immersed involving the campaign of Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders and some local newspapers. On Wednesday, the Sanders campaign released a 30-second ad on YouTube titled "Endorsed," in which seven logos of organizations and newspapers are shown under the words "endorsed by." Both the logos of the *Nashua Telegraph* and *Valley News* appeared under the headline, though neither paper has actually endorsed the Democratic presidential candidate. *Nashua Telegraph* Executive Editor Roger Carroll immediately took to Twitter with a response to the ad - shown here - and Sanders was asked about the ad during last night's MSNBC debate at UNH. The campaign has since amended the ad to clearly show the organizations that have endorsed Sanders, though quotes from both papers remain. Hillary Clinton's campaign chimed in on the controversy today with the release of an ad called "Not Endorsed" claiming Sanders is knowingly misleading voters.

Now in legal news, a 36-year-old Lempster man pleaded guilty to several methamphetamine charges yesterday, and will spend one year in state prison as part of a plea agreement with prosecutors. Police arrested Joshua Bush back in December at his 123 South Pitkin Road home after reports of suspicious activity, and a subsequent warrant led the discovery of a methamphetamine lab. Bush was originally charged with manufacturing meth - which carries a penalty of up to 30 years in prison - but those charges were reduced to attempted manufacturing and possession as part of the plea arrangement. Bush will also have to undergo counseling while in prison, and pay a \$500 for each of the two charges. A second individual, 31-year-old Heather Davis, was also arrested as a result of the Dec. 26 police search, and remains in county jail on charges of possession of a controlled drug and conspiracy to manufacture meth. Davis's bail has been set at \$25,000 dollars.

Turning to education news now, the union representing teachers at Stevens High School here in Claremont made their pitch to an arbitrator earlier this week. Their pitch aimed at reverting back to semester-long block schedules previously used at the school. Under the new schedule, classes were reduced from 90 minutes to 75, with faculty teaching all six of their classes over the entire school year. In years past, faculty taught three classes per semester over a two-semester school year. Teachers filed a cease and desist request back in August when the schedule was implemented, but dropped its request in mid September. The state's Public Labor Relations Board ordered the sides to meet with an arbitrator during its ruling back in December, prompting Tuesday's meeting with the teacher's union. SAU 6 Superintendent Middleton McGoodwin has stood by the school board's decision to implement the schedule, and says he hopes the two sides can come to a mutual agreement.

Over in Vermont, town officials in Hartford announced earlier this week that they've purchased a building abutting its Maxfield Sports Complex on Route 5, giving the town full control of the property's main entrance. The Select board announced the purchase

during Tuesday night's regularly-scheduled meeting, and acknowledged it would come as a surprise because the matter was discussed by board members during a non-public meeting. Officials say they had just one day to agree upon the purchase of the former Emerge Family Advocates building for \$75,000 dollars, and therefore didn't have time to bring the matter to the public. The properties share a driveway along Route 5, which had created security concerns for the sports complex as workers were unable to lock a gate at the entrance. The Select board says the purchase will be paid for by using a surplus from the town's current operating budget, or remaining funds from a \$3.1 million dollar bond to build the complex.

YCN News: the president of Colby-Sawyer College has accepted a new position at Louisiana State University.

We're back with crime news as a Norwich, Vermont woman was arrested across the river in Lebanon on drug charges. According to a press release, officers from the Lebanon Police Department were conducting a search of a local hotel during a drug investigation last night around 9:30 PM. During their search, they were led to a particular room where they made contact with two individuals, after which officers obtained a search warrant and executed a search on the room. As a result of the search, officers arrested 25-year old Jessica Bleeks of Norwich, Vermont. She was found to be in possession of marijuana, cocaine, and over 40 pills of Clonazepam, a drug designed to treat seizures, panic disorder, and anxiety. Bleeks was charged with two counts of Possession of a Narcotic Drug, both being Class B Felonies, as well as one count of Possession of a Controlled Drug, a Class A Misdemeanor. She is being held the Grafton County House of Corrections on \$1,000 bail.

Sticking with police news, a hot topic in Brattleboro is the relocation of the police station and the big question is how it all will be funded. The current police department base of operations is in the Municipal Center has been approved to move to the current Brattleboro Reformer building on Black Mountain Road. The estimated cost of the project is around \$4 million and the town says that once the move and improvements are made, the station wouldn't require any more significant costs for at least 20 more years. The relocation proposal, which was approved by the Select board, will now go in front of town voters at the Representative Town Meeting on March 19th. The board has begun to look at financing the project, which might require up to a 30-year schedule for bond repayment. The ultimate funding decision comes down to tax rate impact on residents against the overall long-term impact. Officials are looking to meet with different groups and organizations moving forward.

In education news now, the current president of nearby Colby-Sawyer College in New London has accepted a new position at another college. Yesterday afternoon, President Tom Galligan accepted the position of dean at Louisiana State University's Paul M. Hebert Law Center, starting this summer. Back in September, and after 10 years in office, Galligan announced that he would not be seeking a third term as Colby-Sawyer's

president after the current term ends on June 30th. This will not be Galligan's first time being employed at LSU, he spoke about his time there with John O'Connor on Capital Connections late last year.

SOT

Among 29 candidates for the position, Galligan and another finalist visited Baton Rouge last week to meet with faculty, students, alumni, and members of a search committee. In his new position, Galligan will oversee all aspects of academic life within the center, including academic programs, fiscal management, and student enrollment. He will take up the position on July 1st of this year.

And finally tonight, the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce held its 52nd annual meeting and dinner at the Newport Opera House yesterday. After social hour and dinner catered by The Old Courthouse Restaurant, the business portion of the meeting convened with elections. Those elected include the president of the Executive Board Donna Mahair, vice president Bob Saidon, second vice president Janice McMahon, treasurer Beth Pitkin, secretary Beth McAllister, and Executive Director Ella M. Casey. Also elected were directors for one, two, and three year terms. The Newport Chamber then awarded Newport High School Students Jeremy Dewey and Katrina Batista Student Achievement Awards followed by the Distinguished Citizen of the Year award given to 95 year old Lilyan Wright from Goshen. Lilyan, who was a physical education teacher, athletic director, and an aerobics instructor in Newport for over 20 years, then spoke of the importance of women participating in sports, Title IX, and to have fun being active. The meeting was then adjourned by newly elected President Donna Mahair.

Monday, February 8th. YCN News:

Up in Hanover tonight, officials at Dartmouth College are in the process of derecognizing yet another fraternity after complaints of alcohol-related hazing this past fall. Sigma Alpha Epsilon received national attention in 2012 when *Rolling Stone* magazine published an article on the fraternity's hazing practices, before new allegations this fall led to the chapter's suspension. News of the suspension was first broke by student newspapers' *The Dartmouth* and *The Dartmouth Review*, where it was reported that the fraternity could face charges from the Hanover Police Department in regards to the illegal sale of alcohol and hazing. Sigma Alpha Epsilon - which owns its \$1.3 million-dollar house on North College Street - will now be the second fraternity at Dartmouth to be derecognized in the last two years, as Alpha Delta lost its active status last spring after allegations members had burned brands into their skin. The Dartmouth Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon was founded in 1908.

In a crime update now, a 32-year-old Newport, New Hampshire man pleaded not guilty late last week to charges he set a vacant building on fire back in 2014. Police arrested Anthony Lantas late last year on one count of burglary to an unattended North Main Street home, and was dealt an additional charge of arson just last month for the home

destroyed in November of 2014. Officials immediately deemed the fire suspicious with no sources of ignition in the home, and identified Lantas as a suspect 13 months after their investigation began. Lantas entered his plea via video from the Sullivan County House of Corrections, with bail being set at \$15,000 dollars. A second individual, 39-year-old Frank Magistro of Newport, was also arrested for his role in the incident, and found guilty last month of conspiracy to commit burglary. The fire destroyed a single-family home and attached barn at 118 North Main Street.

In other fire news from nearby Springfield, New Hampshire, it took firefighters from several towns more than two hours to put out a dangerous blaze at a Lumber Company late last week near Interstate 89. According to a report on the incident, Sunapee Fire Chief Dan Ruggles was working at the Durgin and Crowell Lumber Company shortly after 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon when a conveyor motor caught fire and spread to a nearby silo. Crews from Springfield, New London, Sutton and Grantham quickly responded to the scene, and had all flames extinguished by 5:30 p.m. Crews credit Ruggles for containing the blaze to a small area while waiting for crews to arrive. Authorities say a conveyor machine and motor were damaged as a result of the fire, though additional damage was minimal. The Durgin and Crowell Lumber Company was founded in 1976, and employs nearly 100 people from its Fishers Corner Road location.

Well by this time next week, an all-volunteer organization will be running three food pantries for needy families throughout the Mascoma Valley. The Friends of Mascoma Foundation - founded in 2014 - will be taking over Enfield's current food pantry located in the Enfield Town Hall, and will open two new locations in an effort to better support the community and its children. The first new location will be in downtown Canaan, with the second opening somewhere within the Mascoma Regional School District. As of October, more than 300 students within the district qualified for free or reduced meals according to an article in today's *Valley News*. Enfield's Select board approved the turnover of the town's pantry to the organization back in November, citing that the pantry has always been supported by volunteers. The town does not currently set aside money in the budget for the pantry. More information and ways to donate, check out FriendsOfMascoma.org.

YCN News: there may be no snow, but the winter spirit was in the air over the weekend in Newport.

Well we are back with big news out of Vermont now, and close by too, as nearby Mt. Ascutney marked a milestone in its reopening on Saturday. A dedication ceremony of the volunteer-built rope tow was held, which garnered a large crowd of skiers, supporters, volunteers, and family members of the two families who started Mt. Ascutney in the mid-1900s. Although there wasn't much snow and the Winter Fest portion of the event was cancelled, which would have included fat biking and snowshoeing, volunteer group Mount Ascutney Outdoors and the Trust for Public Land held a successful event regardless. The rope tow, built entirely by volunteers, was

dedicated to the Ely and Howland families who founded the mountain in 1957. The process of reopening the small portion of Mt. Ascutney was a long and arduous process and Saturday's event marked the beginning of a new age for the historic mountain. It was an emotional event, as the spirit of the mountain is instilled in countless area residents and everyone there had a reason to be there, such as memories of learning how to ski. Once we get some snow, feel free to take a trip over and take some runs for free.

In a similar feel-good story, on Friday in Hanover, in the name of preventing heart disease and stroke, a lunch was held to raise awareness for this important cause. The event was put on for Go Red for Women, which is the American Heart Association's national movement to end heart disease and stroke in women, and took place at the Hanover Inn. YCN's Lynn Solomon was there among 300 attendees and caught up with American Heart Association President Mark Creager.

PKG

Cardiovascular disease and stroke cause 1 in 3 women's deaths each year and Go Red for Women works daily to eliminate this statistic. You can visit GoRedForWomen.org to learn more and help out yourself.

Well there might not be much snow out there, but Newport celebrated winter regardless. The 100th Newport Winter Carnival kicked off on Friday with a torch run from Hanover to Newport. The run retraced the route that John McCrillis took when he skied from Dartmouth to the Newport Winter Carnival in 1917. The torch, having been carried for 30 miles was then used by John McCrillis Jr. to light the Newport Winter Carnival torch, officially beginning Newport's 100th Winter Carnival. On Saturday, the featured event was the beard and mustache contest and an attempt at breaking the world's record for the number of bearded people gathered in one place. The record of 462 beards set in Newport in 2011 was not broken but the Grand Champion for best facial hair was won by Dylan Manly. Newport Winter Carnival continues all week with events scheduled every day through Valentine's Day this Sunday. Events include a yankee luau, skating games, the queen pageant Friday night, and many other events. A full list of events can be found on the Newport Winter Carnival website.

{<http://app.sos.nh.gov/Public/PollingPlaceSearch.aspx>}

We'll tomorrow is finally the day for Granite State voters to show their support for their favorite presidential candidate from their respective parties. Yes, tomorrow is the first in the nation primary here in New Hampshire and volunteers representing all candidates from both parties have been vigorously making the rounds, canvassing for their hopeful nominee. To catch you up on the polls, Bernie Sanders leads by a comfortable margin for the Democratic Party and the familiar Donald Trump owns the top spot of the Republican Party by nearly double the numbers of the second-ranked candidate, Marco Rubio. As we saw in Iowa, polling numbers aren't always indicative of the winner, so truly anything can happen. **{L3}** To find your polling place anywhere in New Hampshire,

you can visit the address shown here on your screen. Want results in real time? It's simple, just type in "New Hampshire Primary" into Google and results can be seen. As if you haven't heard this enough, get out and vote!

Tuesday, February 9th. YCN News:

With a fresh coat of snow on the ground, voters from all over the Granite State have been hitting the polls all day today to vote for their respective party's presidential candidates. Polls have been open since this morning, with state law dictating they must be open by 11 AM, but most towns in our area started at 8 AM. All polls across the state close by 8 PM at the latest, and results can be seen afterwards very easily on Google by typing in "New Hampshire Primary". Town officials from all across our region today manned the polls, including at Plainfield, Sunapee, Newport, Newbury, and New London. Residents of all ages turned out to vote today, at least those above 18 of course. According to poll numbers prior to today, Bernie Sanders leads the Democratic Party by a comfortable margin and the same can be said for Republican front-runner Donald Trump, who leads second place Marco Rubio by nearly double. However, as we said yesterday, poll numbers are not entirely indicative of who will come out on top so make sure to stay posted online to see which candidates take home New Hampshire.

In crime news now out of right here in Claremont, authorities are investigating two separate robberies that occurred at and near the Cumberland Farms gas station on Pleasant Street over the weekend. Claremont Police say they received a call yesterday morning, around 1:35 AM, reporting a robbery. Upon an investigation, it was found that an unknown male had entered the store and demanded money from the cashier. He did not show any sort of weapon and quickly fled the store after he received the money. Prior to yesterday, on Friday night, an unidentified person or multiple people stole four wheels and tires from a vehicle at nearby Lamberty Auto. The amount stolen totals to around \$1600 and employees from the dealership called to report the incident the next morning, on Saturday. Police Chief Alex Scott says that it doesn't seem the two incidents are related and that the investigation is ongoing, assisted by surveillance video evidence.

Sticking with crime news, this time out of Vermont, Bellows Falls police have arrested two people for possession of heroin. This past Saturday on February 6th, 25-year old Jennifer Gagnon of West Lebanon was arrested on Granger Street for possession of heroin. Prior to this weekend's arrest, another individual was arrested on heroin charges also on Granger Street. On January 21st, 25-year old Joshua King, also of West Lebanon, was arrested after police found heroin during a traffic stop for a motor vehicle offense. During the traffic stop, K9 Caesar detected drug odors and King denied consent to search the vehicle. His car was seized, pending a search warrant, and once it was obtained, police discovered less than 200 mg of heroin, inside a compartment. King was arrested, released on conditions, and will appear in court at a later date.

Meanwhile, Gagnon is being held at the Southern State Correctional Facility for lack of bail.

News out of Croydon New Hampshire now as the town is looking to limit the amount of noise complaints through a new town ordinance. The proposed ordinance is called the "Large Crowd Ordinance" and it will try to reduce any noise complaints from within the town, in regards to, as the name implies, large gatherings of people. A public hearing was held last night at 6:00 PM to receive public input on this new ordinance, which was requested by Police Chief Richard Lee.

The proposal for the new rule stems from repeated noise incidents at the Page Hill Farm Music Festival this past summer. Chief Lee had arrested the event promoter who wound up paying a fine for a misdemeanor charge at \$1000. The ordinance will be voted on at Croydon's Town Meeting, scheduled for early March and would require any gathering of 100 people or more to obtain a license for the event and pay for police coverage, clocking in at \$65 an hour. The permit would need to be obtained from the town's Selectmen at least 30 days before an event.

YCN News: a local Claremont business is beginning its move down to Water Street.

Now in a story that we had originally brought you in the early fall, a local Claremont business right here on Pleasant Street is getting closer to its move down to Water Street to populate an old mill building. Last night, the city's Planning Board approved the site plan for the renovation of the mill at 13 Water Street, where owners Jeff and Sarah Barrette will move their printing business, the Ink Factory, come September of this year. Last fall, the Barrettes jumped at an opportunity to utilize the former mill building as part of a tax relief program, which hopes to rehabilitate the historic buildings and districts in Claremont. At last night's meeting, the board raised no objections to the site plan and even granted a special use permit to allow the industrial use that the Ink Factory utilizes to print and embroider. When YCN News spoke to Jeff Barrette last August, he expressed hope that other businesses in Claremont or even other areas would follow his example and help bring these historic buildings back to their former glory. Although the interior plans for the building have been approved, the exterior has yet to be approved.

Well it was a heated conversation last night about sprinklers as the Lebanon Planning Board went head to head with the owner of the River Valley Club over fire safety. *The Valley News* reports that the Planning Board is requiring River Valley Club owner Joe Asch to install sprinklers in a proposed new day care building, but Asch isn't so keen on the idea.

Asch argued that the Planning Board has no control over the sprinklers, as it concerns the building code, not the site plan, which they had approved back in July. However, during the site plan approval, Planning Board members required that sprinklers be installed in the new daycare, given the amount of children that could be housed in the

building compared to the seven minute response time of the Lebanon Fire Department to the location, should a fire occur. The ideal response time for a fire call is between three and five minutes, which means that the daycare's seven minute travel would be negated by having sprinklers on site. The conversation last night became heated at points and Asch told *The Valley News* that he plans to appeal the board's decision.

Over in nearby Newport now, the school district has announced the resignation of a principal. SAU 43 Superintendent Cindy Gallagher announced yesterday that Newport School District Elementary Principal Peter Durso has resigned for personal reasons. However, he will continue to fill the position and carry out its responsibilities until February 19th. Durso was hired back in August of last fall, having been an educator in New Hampshire for nearly 20 years prior to his position at Newport. The school board had voted 4-1 to approve Durso to the position, with the only opposing vote citing how the hiring process was rushed, not because of Durso's qualifications. As the Elementary Principal, Durso oversaw the Towle Elementary School and the Richards Elementary School, and in his absence, Superintendent Gallagher will serve as interim principal until a permanent candidate is hired.

Well this past weekend marked a big day in the history of the New Hampshire Mountain Inn in Wilmont. On Sunday, the Inn hosted an open house to unveil renovations to the historic building, built back in 1970, which is now open to the public. Owned by the Pacific Group, who also own Ragged Mountain in Danbury, the Inn on New Canada Road had been a private residence until just this past weekend. We spoke to the innkeeper on Sunday about the beginning of this new era for the Inn.

PKG

The inn is located 4 miles from Ragged Mountain Ski Resort and has 11 rooms, a tavern, indoor pool, and pond.

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PKG

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Thursday, February 11th. YCN News:

We start tonight here in Claremont, where a man who faced up to life in prison on charges of manufacturing methamphetamine was released Tuesday after pleading guilty to lesser charges as part of a plea deal with prosecutors. 30-year-old Jason Smith pleaded guilty Tuesday in Sullivan County Superior Court on two counts of *attempted* manufacturing of methamphetamines, and was given credit for time served after having spent the previous 391 days behind bars. The plea came just one day after the beginning of a trial by jury on the charges. Smith was arrested Jan. 15 of last year during a raid executed by members of the Claremont Police, New Hampshire Attorney General's Drug Task Force and the Sullivan County House of Corrections. During their search of the 302 Plains Road home, investigators uncovered evidence of an alleged methamphetamine lab. Smith's attorneys had argued to the 14-member jury that at least seven other residents of the home had access to the items authorities allege are used for manufacturing the drug.

Crossing into Vermont now, the citizen's group Rockingham for Progress spoke to the town's planning commission last night for the first time since submitting a petition that could prevent the construction of a controversial detention facility on the riverfront. The petition included 244 signatures of concerned residents, and requested changes to several of the town's zoning bylaws that would prohibit construction of the facility. The planning commission agreed to create a report based on the information included in the petition, and will hold a public hearing on the issue at its next regular meeting scheduled for March 2. Late last year, state officials proposed the construction of a \$23-million dollar pre-trial detention facility to be built at the site of the former Liberty Paper Co. building off Westminster Street. Residents overwhelmingly raised concerns over the proposal, and the citizens group was quickly created with hopes of stopping the project in its tracks.

Medical researchers at Dartmouth College received a welcomed gift earlier this year from an anonymous donor and other entities to the tune of a \$30-million dollar grant to fund Cystic Fibrosis research. The donation will allow the Hanover college to form three new research groups encompassing faculty members and researchers from nearby Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, with the hopes of discovering new treatments for the life-threatening genetic disorder. Cystic Fibrosis - which is incurable - is said to effect some 30,000 people nationwide, causing damage to the lungs and digestive

system. The three new research groups - or clusters - will round out a planned set of 10 within the college, focusing on issues from cybersecurity to arctic engineering. Dartmouth College President Phil Hanlon - who played a big role in securing a donor for Cystic Fibrosis cluster - said in a press release that the clusters are a pillar of his academic vision of the school.

Now updating a story we brought you late last month as Hartland resident Donald Kreis was confirmed yesterday as New Hampshire's newest consumer advocate. The five-member Executive Council unanimously confirmed Kreis's appointment to represent residential ratepayers in proceedings with the Public Utilities Commission. Kreis has a deep resume to support his confirmation, including service on the Vermont Supreme Court, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, and the United States District Court in Portland, Maine. He also has experience working with the Public Utilities Commission, having spent time as general counsel, hearings examiner and staff attorney for the commission. The position became available when the state's former consumer advocate – Susan Chamberlin – was not reappointed at the conclusion of her term. Kreis was then nominated for the position by New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan, before his appointment yesterday by the executive council. Kreis will serve a 3-year term with an annual salary of nearly \$90,000 dollars.

YCN News: Claremont may challenge its charter in regards to the public works director.

We're back with news out of Vermont where Brattleboro's Union High School District 6 has passed their 2017 budget. At Tuesday night's School Board meeting, the proposed school budget was passed as it was presented. Although a motion to add a \$12,000 to foreign language programming was presented, it was defeated by 23 votes and the budget was passed in its original form unanimously. The budget for Brattleboro Union High School District 6 totalled slightly less than \$28 million and includes funding for not only the high school, but also the Brattleboro Area Middle School and Windham Regional Career Center. The budget had seen some reductions prior to its passing, mainly due to lower class sizes and hiring one-full time teacher instead of one for foreign language and another one to work part of a full-time position. Windham Southeast Supervisory Union Superintendent Ron Stahley told the *Brattleboro Reformer* that no programs or services have been cut for the 2017 year.

In New Hampshire now, in crime news, a 53-year old man has been arrested and charged with DUI after crashing his vehicle near off Mechanic Street. Lebanon Police say that around 8:00 last night, Patrick Roland, of Cooper Street in Lebanon, committed a motor vehicle offense and K9 Officer Jon Tracy attempted to pull him over. Roland refused to stop and continued driving east on Mechanic Street at high speeds. He continued onto Bank Street Extension where he lost control of his vehicle and went off the road. His vehicle went over a steep embankment above the Mascoma River and was caught by several trees above the river. He was extricated from his vehicle by

Lebanon Fire and Police personnel and transported to Dartmouth-Hitchcock for minor injuries. He was arrested and charged with DUI and Disobeying a Police Officer, both Class A misdemeanors. He was released on personal recognize bail and will appear in court on March 21st.

Staying in New Hampshire but going to Claremont, the city is looking to reexamine its charter in regards to the director of the public works and his residency. Over a decade ago in 2003, Claremont voters approved a change to the city's charter that requires the city's public works director to live within the city lines. However, at last night's City Council Meeting, this change was disputed in regards to the interim Public Works Director Scott Sweet, who lives in Cornish, and if hired, would be required to move to Claremont. Claremont City Manager Guy Santagate says that Sweet is the best choice for the position and sought out the legal firm Orr and Reno from Concord to help the city move forward. The law firm explained in a letter that since Sweet lives right on the Cornish/Claremont line and that having him move officially into Claremont would not help prevent public safety incidents, the residency requirement doesn't accomplish much. Santagate is faced with violating the charter or violating state law and the case will be discussed again on February 24th at the Council's meeting.

And lastly tonight, ever dreamed of owning your own cafe? Well a local cafe in New London, the Hole in the Fence, is looking for a new owner. Co-owners Pam and Buddy Sanborn have run the cafe for over 6 years now but have decided it is time to pursue other endeavors and devote more time to their passions. YCN's Lynn Solomon caught up with co-owner Pam Sanborn who reflects on her time at the cafe.

PKG

The Hole in the Fence is located across from the Town Green and near Colby-Sawyer College. I should note that on Wednesdays, the cafe offers pizza at buy one get the second half off!

Friday, February 12th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with a sad story out of Newport as a fire yesterday afternoon destroyed a man's log cabin and claimed the lives of two dogs. Firefighters responded to the scene on Coon Brook Road shortly after 1:30 yesterday afternoon to find the home fully engulfed in flames. Crews from nearby Goshen, Sunapee, Croydon, Grantham, Claremont, New London, and Lempster assisted Newport on the scene, and had declared the fire under control in a little more than an hour. Officials say two dogs were believed to have perished in the fire, though no other injuries were reported. The log home was handcrafted by its owner, Ernest Shepard III, and was last assessed at a value of \$128,000 according to town records. Authorities say they believe a wood stove is to blame for igniting the fire, though an investigation into the blaze remains ongoing. It was not initially known whether or not the home was insured. A GoFundMe page has

been started to help the family get back on its feet and you can find the link on our website.

A group of Sullivan County state representatives have sponsored a bill within the state's House of Representatives that if passed, would allow the Croydon School Board to continue sending children to a nearby private school using public tax revenue. The bill, which is co-sponsored by Representatives Virginia Irwin of Newport, and Suzanne Gottling of Sunapee - whose districts include Croydon - would allow school boards to send students in towns without a public school for their grade to a "non-religious private school which has been approved by the Department of Education." The Croydon School board has been entangled in controversy with the state's Attorney General's Office and the Department of Education for paying for four students to attend the Newport Montessori School. The Croydon Village School only runs through fourth grade, leaving older children to attend public school in nearby towns. The House Education Committee was scheduled to discuss the bill this morning.

Crossing into Vermont now, voters in Woodstock will have plenty to consider when they take to the polls March 1, including a \$5 million dollar budget proposal up slightly from the town's current fiscal budget. Officials in Woodstock will hold a town meeting Feb. 27 to discuss the proposal, which would reduce the number of constables in the town from two to one, and aim to cut costs at the Norman Williams Public Library. This year's proposal comes at a slight increase from the town's current \$4.7 million dollar budget, with an additional 3.5 percent being raised through taxes. The ballot will also include an initiative to borrow up to \$100,000 dollars to construct an addition to the town's Welcome Center, with those funds eventually being recouped from the Chamber of Commerce. The meeting, scheduled for next Saturday, will begin at 10 a.m. at the Woodstock Town Hall.

Staying in the Green Mountain State, we've all heard that the best way to start a day is with a healthy breakfast right? Well a donation from the New England Dairy and Farm Council to a Springfield primary school will help ensure students are alert and ready to learn at the start of the day by way of a little breakfast. The Elm Hill School, with an enrollment of nearly 300 students in kindergarten through second grade, received a check for a little more than \$3,000 dollars from the council to expand its breakfast in the classroom program. The money will be used to purchase 15 soft cube coolers that can be used to both heat and cool items to be distributed in each of the school's classrooms. The school began serving breakfast in the classroom late last year, and has seen a drastic increase in the amount of students served with nearly half of the school's enrollment now being fed. School officials say the program also helps students access a health variety of foods.

YCN News: this past weekend brought the 2016 Scholastic Art Awards where some local students got recognition.

In crime news now, a Lebanon man has been arrested on charges of domestic violence for assaulting two females. According to a press release, Lebanon Police received a call around 1:30 this morning for assistance at a Meriden Road residence, saying that a male had assaulted two females. When officers responded, they found that the suspect had fled into the woods after physically assaulting his wife and adult daughter along with another male who was at the home.

Lebanon Senior Officer Jeremy Perkins and K9 Max tracked the suspect and arrested 47-year old William Grizzaffi of Lebanon. He was charged with four counts of Domestic Violence Simple Assault, which are Class A misdemeanors, and another charge of Simple Assault for attacking the other male who was not related to him. Grizzaffi was released on \$5,000 personal recognizance bail and will appear in the Lebanon District Division, New Hampshire Second Circuit Court on February 22nd.

An update in a story we brought you earlier this week as a proposed ordinance in Croydon that would reduce the amount of noise complaints in town, has been withdrawn. On Monday night, a public hearing was held on the Large Gathering Ordinance which would require any party of over 100 people to obtain a license 30 days beforehand and to pay for police coverage at \$65 an hour. Police Chief Richard Lee proposed the ordinance after repeated noise incidents at the Page Hill Farm Music Festival this past summer. Chief Lee had arrested the event promoter who wound up paying a fine for a misdemeanor charge at \$1000. Croydon's Select Board and Chief Lee both agreed that the large opposition from the town on the ordinance would make presenting it practically useless. Selectman Tom Howard said that the ordinance will no longer be on the list of warrant articles to be presented at the Town Meeting in early March. Chief Lee thanked Croydon residents for listening to his concern, and the Select Board thanked residents for offering their input on the matter.

In Claremont now, looking ahead to warmer days, the local Arrowhead Recreation Area is currently planning out a summer concert series that hopes to draw in crowds and revenue this summer. The Claremont Citizen's Group is organizing Summerfest 2016, which will bring a series of concerts and live music to help keep the local recreation area alive during the winter. Currently, the mountain is run and maintained by a handful of retired Claremont residents and all proceeds from the concert series would go directly to the mountain to support its upkeep and operation. The Arrowhead Recreation Area is volunteer-run and offers tubing, skiing, snowboarding, skating, and mountain biking and hiking in the summer. The first concert of Summerfest 2016 will be held on May 28th on Memorial Day Weekend with concerts all day long from local bands. Meanwhile, this weekend, you can head to Arrowhead for Valentine's Skating on Sunday where you can grab your sweetheart and enjoy a skate on their pink ice rink.

And finally tonight, this past weekend, students from all over New Hampshire competed to have their artwork highlighted at the 2016 Scholastic Art Awards at Pinkerton Academy in Derry. Over 1100 students from 382 public and private schools from grades 7-12 sought recognition in this year's art awards, and a handful of local students took

home some prestigious awards. YCN's Lynn Solomon was at the event on Sunday and spoke to some Sunapee students who stood above the rest.

PKG

In all, there were 2100 submissions, of which less than 1000 received awards. Categories included fine art, photography, sculpture, digital media, and film. Nationally, the program awards a considerable \$1 million in scholarships and prizes.

Monday, February 15th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with a developing story out of nearby Weathersfield, Vermont as a fire this morning destroyed a vacant home along Route 131. Firefighters responded to the scene shortly after 7 a.m. after a 911 call, and found the structure fully engulfed in flames upon arrival. Firefighters struggled to combat the blaze due to bitter cold temperatures, though crews from both sides of the Connecticut River eventually deemed the scene under control within a reasonable amount of time after arriving on the scene. Authorities have not yet identified the cause of the fire, though it is known that a pellet stove had been utilized by a caretaker to keep some heat in the structure. Crews from nearby Windsor, Hartford, and Claremont assisted Weathersfield firefighters at the scene. No injuries were reported as a result of the fire, and authorities have said they do not believe its cause to be suspicious.

A 19-year-old Lebanon man was arrested Saturday on multiple charges of sexual assault after police found him alone in a laundromat with an underage female. According to Lebanon Police, officers responded to the West Lebanon laundromat shortly before 1 p.m. Saturday afternoon after noticing a person in the facility. Officers entered the laundromat to check on the man, and upon entry, observed a female under the age of 16 and evidence of potential sexual contact between the individuals. After a brief investigation, police arrested 19-year-old Andrew Daniels of Lebanon and charged him with two counts of felonious sexual assault which is a Class B Felony. Daniels was transported to the Grafton County House of Corrections with bail set at \$50,000 dollars. The underage female was not identified or charged by authorities. Felonious sexual assault carries a maximum penalty of 20 years behind bars in the state of New Hampshire.

So you think you're good enough to be in one of the singing shows like 'The Voice' or 'American Idol?' Well, here's your chance...kind of. Sullivan County Cares, a nonprofit organization that sends care packages to members of the military serving overseas, is hosting a TV-style singing competition in April to help raise money for the organization. Organizers are actively seeking upwards of 30 contestants to sign up by March 1, with contestants eventually to sing in front of a live audience on two nights at the Newport Opera House. Contestants must be at least 13-years-old in order to participate, and should send an email to sullivancountycares@gmail.com to sign up. The first night of the competition will be held April 22, with the field being narrowed down to 15

contestants for the final night on April 23. Like 'The Voice', judges will not be able to see contestants during their performances. Winners will receive cash prizes.

Shifting into Vermont now, the historic Quechee Bridge is known for drawing in crowds to admire the view but it is also unfortunately known for its history of suicides. Now, a bill in the state's legislature would take measures to help prevent suicides at the historic bridge if approved by lawmakers in Montpelier. The bill - H 593 - would require Vermont's Agency of Transportation to come up with ways to make the bridge safer to pedestrian traffic, and complete all work by Oct. 1, 2017. The bridge spans over the Ottauquechee River, some 165-feet over the state's deepest gorge, and serves as a direct crossing for drivers traveling along Route 4. The site has historically been a popular tourist attractions for travelers, especially this past weekend on Valentine's Day, but has also played host to numerous suicides since it was built more than 100 years ago. According to the *Valley News*, the bill was authored by Barnard-Representative Teo Zagar, who was inspired after receiving a call from the family of a man who committed suicide at the bridge in 2011.

YCN News: Newport's Winter Carnival has come to a close after a week of festivities.

We're back with news out Claremont as the city is looking to revive part of the city economically as part of an ongoing effort to bring life back to historic and business districts. The City Council has approved an Economic Revitalization Zone, or ERZ, on a small stretch of Maple Avenue, which includes the vacant former Claremont Savings Bank building, the National Field Representatives Office, the Maple Lanes Bowling Alley, the Hitching Post restaurant, and the vacant Goddard Bakery Building. These businesses and buildings, as part of the ERZ, can receive tax credits and apply them against their state business taxes, according to Planning and Development Director Nancy Merrill's statement of the Council last week. This section of Maple Avenue is a small business hub and the establishment of the ERZ hopes to bring life back to vacant buildings and enhance what is already there. Along with Statute 79-E, a tax relief program passed last year in the summer, works to encourage development in certain areas of town and urges rehabilitation of existing buildings.

Across the river in further South in Brattleboro, three candidates are seeking a certain spot on the town's Select board . *The Brattleboro Reformer* reports that incumbent David Gartenstein has been part of the Board for five years and is currently the deputy state's attorney and chairman of the Board. Ahead of the March town meeting, he is being challenged by Dick DeGray, who formerly served on the Select board and wants to return after having taken time off from the position. He's also being challenged by Avery Schwenk, a newcomer to the position, who opened the Hermit Thrush Brewery in town two years ago but is an instructor for kids on how to think creatively. All three candidates come from different fields of experience, which they spoke on at the Brattleboro Citizens' Breakfast on Friday and also answered questions from attendees.

Each was able to offer insight from their different backgrounds on how the town could move forward and how they would best fill the position. Meanwhile, the Board's vice chairwoman is running unopposed for her three year seat on Board, after having already served her first three year term.

News out of Hartford Vermont now as the town's police department is saying goodbye to a long-time dispatcher. Doug Smith has been with the town of Hartford for 37 years, serving as both a full-time firefighter and a full-time emergency dispatcher. Smith is originally a graduate of Hartford High School and began his work with the town in 1971 where he acted as a call firefighter, before becoming a full-time firefighter just two years later. He left public service only for a little before returning in 1981 as a full-time dispatcher. As an Emergency Communications Dispatcher for all these years, Hartford Police say that Smith is responsible for saving the lives of multiple men, women, children, and infants and for providing accurate and reliable information to responders to best treat the emergency. In his time with the department, Smith has taken calls from witnesses at shootings, talked with suicidal callers, given CPR instructions, and helped stranded motorists, among many other feats. Hartford Police, through a Facebook post, expressed their hopes for Smith's future to enjoy his retirement with his wife of 33 years and his children.

Well after a week of events, the 100th Newport Winter Carnival wrapped up over the weekend with many events for area residents to attend. The cold blustery morning did not stop the Winter Carnival parade from rolling down Main Street. The 2016 Newport Winter Carnival Queen Melissa Clivio - Wentrop along with her court, prince, and princesses waved to the crowd along with many past queen winners. Floats from Richards Library, The Newport Historical Society, and trucks from many businesses, as well as Leapin' Lena also took part in the parade. Winter Carnival activities took place on the Newport Common after the parade which included an ax man competition, turkey bowling on ice, and a man dressed as a pig skating on the common with children chasing after him, which caught PETA's attention, to try and take a 5 dollar bill from his tail. Later in the day, the frozen open golf tournament took place at Meadow Park. The Newport Winter Carnival concluded with a dance, hockey tournament, and fireworks.

Tuesday, February 16th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with yet another follow-up on a proposal to build a pre-trial detention facility along the riverfront in Bellows Falls, as the Rockingham Planning Commission has set a public hearing date to discuss amendments brought forward by a local citizens group. The commission voted unanimously during its regularly-scheduled meeting last night to accept draft documents written by Rockingham for Progress, and to hold a public hearing March 2 at 7 p.m. at the town hall. If brought to a vote and approved by residents, the amendments could potentially prohibit the construction of the Liberty Mill Justice Center to be built at the site of the former Liberty Paper Company. Residents immediately raised concern when then the state proposed the \$23-million dollar facility, with an eventual 244 residents signing a Rockingham for Progress petition requesting

several zoning amendments. The amendments would limit the amount of people allowed to reside within the facility, which the group hopes will prevent the project from being started.

And now an update on our top story from last night as a fire early yesterday morning - combined with frigid temperatures - made it impossible to spare a vacant farmhouse on Route 131 in Weathersfield. According to an incident report, subzero temperatures when crews first responded to the scene shortly after 7 a.m. yesterday morning severely hindered fighters' ability to combat the blaze, and just four hours later, the home was completely destroyed. Pumps aboard several trucks froze during the call, making it difficult to provide a steady stream of water to the structure. The cause of the fire has not yet officially been determined, though authorities believe it stemmed from a pellet stove used to provide some heat to the structure. No firefighters were injured as a result of the fire, though members of the American Red Cross were on the scene to provide assistance to firefighters. Portions of Route 131 in Weathersfield were closed at times yesterday morning due to a thick layer of ice caused by runoff.

Turning to Vermont news now, a routine traffic stop in Rockingham Sunday night led to the arrest of a 29-year-old Connecticut man on felony drug charges. According to Vermont State Police, troopers pulled over a 2010 Mazda 3 driven by Joshua Levesque around 10:30 Sunday night for traveling at a high rate of speed in the northbound lane of Interstate 91. During the stop, troopers found Levesque - of West Hartford, Connecticut - in possession of nine ounces of cocaine and several grams of marijuana. Troopers charged Levesque with possession and trafficking of cocaine - both felonies - though no charges were levied down for the marijuana. The man was taken into custody without incident, and faced a Windham County Superior Court judge. Authorities estimated the street value of the cocaine to be upwards of \$25,000 dollars. Levesque is currently being held at the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield for lack of \$25,000 dollar bail.

Staying in the Green Mountain State, residents of Woodstock could see a drop in the town's education taxes if voters approve a proposed school budget March 1. The town's school board proposed its \$11.6 million-dollar budget earlier this year, which included a decrease of some \$14,000 dollars of spending at the high school. Helping with those cuts were the retirements of several relatively high-salary teachers who were replaced by younger teachers that require less pay. Spending at Woodstock Elementary School will increase by approximately \$11,000 dollars if the budget is approved, with enrollment in the school expected to drop around 20 students by the start of the next school year. The lower rates would not only affect the town of Woodstock, as towns like Bridgewater, Pomfret, Killington and Reading could also see cuts if the budget is approved. A public informational hearing on the budget will be held Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. at the high school.

YCN News: Hartland's school budget will be higher next year but tax rates on residents will actually go down!

We're back with news out of nearby Sunapee, as the town decided to leave out the Budget Advisory Committee's report in the overall town report earlier this month. This vote came after much disagreement and the Intertown Record reports that last summer, both the Sunapee Select board and the Budget Advisory Committee agreed that the BAC's role should not be active all year and should merely provide an extra set of eyes in setting up the year's budget. This year, the town report was printed on February 9th and there was simply no time for the BAC to prepare another report to be included in the town report. Disagreement and discussion stemmed from the negativity of the BAC's report and that cooperation between the two groups was not where it should be. Sunapee's budget last year was slightly less than 7 million dollars and only 28 other New Hampshire towns have a lower tax rate. The Sunapee town budget and all other articles will be voted on by ballot on March 8.

Sticking with money news, Hartland's school taxes are looking to be a little lower next year for 2017, even though the budget will be higher than the current one. Other changes await in Hartland too, as the town's clerk and assistant clerk will both be retiring, meaning money must be allotted to hire more help to avoid being understaffed. In regards to the school budget, it stands at an increase of more than half a million dollars from the current one, leaving an \$8.8 million total, most of which is special education costs. Other cost increases include raises for staff members and a new state law that orders mandatory pre-K education, which Hartland will utilize the Hartland Cooperative Nursery School for in an agreement. In addition, some structural improvements are accounted for, such as installing an air conditioner and a standby generator. The budget will be discussed, if need be, and approved at Hartford's annual School District Meeting on February 22nd, slated for one week prior to the Town Meeting on March 1st. The School District Meeting will kick off at 7:30, next Monday night.

An update now in a story we've been following for quite some time now and thought we had seen the end of, the purchase of properties formerly belonging to Ed and Elaine Brown have been causing quite a stir between the town of Plainfield and the IRS. The town of Plainfield, where the former home of Ed and Elaine Brown is located, is voicing concern that the Internal Revenue Service will only pay back a small portion of the \$233,000 in back taxes and fees owed on the home to Plainfield, that according to the *Valley News*. The home and dentist office, which is in nearby Lebanon, were sold to a Plainfield resident in the fall of last year and according to a document obtained by the newspaper, the US Department of Justice is proposing that \$175,000 of the \$205,000 final sale price be given to the federal government for expenses in auctioning it off. Meanwhile, Plainfield would only receive around 13 percent of the final sale price, which is raising concerns among town officials. The Browns were arrested in 2007 by the US Marshals Service for refusing to pay federal taxes, following a buildup of tension for years and an eventual armed standoff. Both Ed and Elaine, who are in their 70's, are serving prison sentences in separate prisons in the country's Midwest.

And finally tonight, it's no secret that this winter hasn't been the most generous when it comes to snow, however that isn't stopping the Harris Hill Ski Jump in Brattleboro in gearing up for this weekend's annual events. The events are the Pepsi Challenge US Cup and the Fred Harris Memorial Tournament, the latter of which has been held almost every year since 1922, save for a few years when there was no snow. But not this year! On Friday, the ski jump was busy blowing snow onto the ramp and landing and last night's snow shower added more on top of that. The Pepsi Challenge will take place on Saturday beginning at 10 AM for trial rounds with the competition itself kicking off around 12:45 in the afternoon, followed by awards. The next day, on Sunday, the Fred Harris Memorial Tournament will be held, following the same schedule as the day before. As part of the two day event, ski jumpers from around the nation will compete on New England's only Olympic-size 90 meter hill, offering concessions and a warm beer tent for spectators. For more information on the event, check out HarrisHillSkiJump.com.

Wednesday, February 17th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with news out of Claremont as two men were arrested late last week on charges of breaking into unlocked cars this past January. According to Claremont police, 25-year-old Bruce Brown - of Heritage Drive - and 21-year-old Tyler Erickson - of Elm Street - were arrested late Friday afternoon on five counts of theft from a motor vehicle. Brown was also charged with giving false information to law enforcement. Police say the duo is responsible for breaking into five unlocked cars in the area of Winter Street, Sugar River Drive, and Bible Hill Road, where they allegedly stole compact discs, a GPS Unit, keys, and a handgun that was later returned to its owner. Police added that the owner of the firearm will not face charges for improper storage. Both Brown and Erickson are scheduled to be arraigned in Claremont District Court on March 21. Police are reminding residents to make sure their cars are locked when left unattended for lengthy periods of time.

Staying in Claremont, employees and shoppers at the Family Dollar Store here on Pleasant Street were evacuated last night as heavy rainfall exposed several leaks in the facilities roof. Crews from the Claremont Fire Department responded to the store shortly after 6 p.m. last night after receiving a call from an employee about noticeable leaks coming from the ceiling. Once on the scene, firefighters quickly attributed the leak to a clogged drain located on the rooftop that had overflowed. The drain was temporarily blocked by firefighters, and the store was reopened within an hour. An employee told the *Eagle Times* the store had to be evacuated for safety concerns caused by the water. According to the Claremont Fire Department, crews responded to numerous calls yesterday involving leaking roofs which was credited to a dangerous mixture of overnight snowfall and heavy rain. With the colder temperatures today and tonight, officials are reminding drivers and pedestrians to be wary of ice that has formed from yesterday's rain.

Right across the river in Vermont, that mix of snow and rain did more than just damage roofs, as approximately 1,400 customers of utilities provider Green Mountain Power were without electricity late last night. The outage was purposely caused by officials when they shut down a substation located in Brownsville due to severe flooding. Crews shut the station down shortly before 9 p.m. last night, affecting customers in nearby Weathersfield, West Windsor and Reading. Green Mountain Power inspected the substation for damage caused by high water during the outage, and had arrangements to bring a mobile station into the area to restore power to residents if damage was found. According to Green Mountain Power's twitter page, though, that mobile station wasn't needed after all, as the substation passed inspection and was back up and running shortly after 2 o'clock this morning, restoring power to all affected customers.

Turning to Upper Valley news now, a Lebanon man is being recognized by the American Red Cross for his role in saving a life last summer while swimming in a Vermont river. Barry Martin will be one of eight recipients of the American Red Cross's 2016 Everyday Heroes Award after he saved the life of a man who had jumped from the Quechee Covered Bridge last summer. Martin - who was swimming a short distance away - rescued the unconscious man from the water, and performed CPR on the individual until emergency personnel arrived. According to the American Red Cross, the victim - who wasn't breathing when Martin rescued him - would have died had it not been for Martin's heroic acts. The awards, which honor heroes in both New Hampshire and Vermont, will be held March 10 at the Doubletree by Hilton in South Burlington, Vermont at 7 p.m. More information can be found at www.redcross.com.

YCN News: River Valley Community College's nursing program is taking steps towards being recognized once again.

In crime news now, and quite significant news at that, the Vermont Drug Task Force arrested more than 20 people yesterday in Southwestern Vermont in a massive sweep. The arrest operation was conducted by the Vermont Drug Task Force in conjunction with federal and local partners and arrested 19 people on a variety of state level criminal charges and an additional 10 on federal level charges. The defendants charged with federal level crimes will go in front of the US Attorney's Office, while those arrested for drug crimes against Vermont laws have all been cited to appear in Bennington and Rutland Superior Court. Yesterday's sweep worked to combat the ongoing presence of heroin and opiate distribution networks in Vermont communities and the arrests are the product of a year's worth of investigation into the distribution of illicit drugs. Charges of the 19 arrested include sale of heroin, sale of cocaine, and sale of regulated drug oxycodone. In their investigation, the Vermont Drug Task Force worked with the FBI, DEA, ATF, as well as local and county law enforcement agencies in Southwestern Vermont.

In education news now in New Hampshire, Colby-Sawyer College has announced a partnership with a Vermont academy that will benefit junior and senior level students.

According to a press release issued today by the New London college, they have signed an agreement with St. Johnsbury Academy, which will now allow junior and senior academy students to take college-level courses at its location in St. Johnsbury. The Academy is a private non-profit boarding school that enrolls students in grades 9-12. This new partnership will allow the high school students to receive partial college education that will work towards their high school graduation requirements as well as college credits and a transcript from Colby-Sawyer. The agreement stands to last for five years and was signed by Colby-Sawyer President Tom Galligan and St. Johnsbury Academy Headmaster Thomas Lovett. The collaboration will launch in the fall of this year and will offer classes in fine arts, performing arts, and business administration, all of which will be taught by Academy teachers, selected by Colby-Sawyer. To enroll in the college courses, students can pay \$150 per four credit course.

Sticking with education news with another local college, River Valley Community College here in Claremont is known for its nursing program, and now, the program is being recognized once again. The school's nursing program is moving closer towards regaining national accreditation, after a visit from officials from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, or ACEN late last week. The visitors from ACEN recommended that the school's program be initially accredited for five years, after they found that the nursing program's self-study report is in compliance with their national standards. River Valley Community College had lost its accreditation in August of 2013, which it had held since 1990. This recommendation is just a step in the process, but school officials have expressed feelings of accomplishment and gratefulness. Moving forward, the recommendation will go in front of the ACEN Board for review in June and a determination will be made in July.

And finally tonight, the Sunapee Police Department may be receiving some upgrades in the not-so-distant future. The town's Select board has voted to hold a public hearing next month to upgrade their police patrol boat as well as to undergo other upgrades to rescue equipment. During last week's regularly-scheduled Select board meeting, a motion was unanimously passed that established a public hearing on March 7th at 7:30 PM to accept \$8000 from the Sunapee Police Benevolent Association for a police patrol boat motor. According to the minutes released today, Chief David Cahill had made the suggestion to accept the donation from the Benevolent Association, which would allow them to purchase and install a new motor for their patrol boat that operates on Lake Sunapee. Cahill also suggested that the Association take the old motor as a trade, which would cover some of the cost of the new motor. In addition to the boat upgrade, another motion was unanimously passed that would draw around \$1600 from the Revolving Police Fund to replace and upgrade worn-out safety equipment and the three-season jackets that officers use on duty.

Thursday, February 18th. YCN News:

We start with crime news tonight as a Lebanon man was arrested early yesterday morning on multiple charges amid allegations of domestic violence against an

unidentified woman. Lebanon police arrested 53-year-old Kenneth Rapp, of Parkhurst Street, shortly after 4 a.m. yesterday morning after claims he repeatedly assaulted a woman and prevented her from leaving an apartment. Officers responded to the Parkhurst Street apartment after reports of a woman screaming from inside. Rapp was arrested on the scene, and charged with three counts of simple domestic assault, false imprisonment, obstructing the report of a crime, criminal mischief and criminal restraint. Police have not identified the victim, only saying she is 39-years-old and is the girlfriend of Rapp. Police say the woman received non-life threatening injuries and was receiving treatment. Rapp refused the service of a bail commissioner, and was held overnight at the Grafton County House of Corrections. He was scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon.

Over in nearby Springfield, New Hampshire, first responders spent the better part of yesterday morning helping a man who lost control of his vehicle and drove into a frozen pond. According to New Hampshire State Police, a Toyota Camry driven by Thomas Billingham of Grafton sped off Route 114 shortly before 3 a.m. Wednesday morning before sliding down a steep embankment and into the pond. Police say Billingham was able to extricate himself from the vehicle, and suffered only minor injuries. Members of the Springfield police and fire department also responded to the scene, as well as New London Ambulance. Police say ice and speed may have been contributing factors to the crash, and that Billingham is not currently facing any charges. Police are reminding motorists to use caution while driving at night, even when temperatures are above freezing as black ice on roadways is still possible.

Turning to Upper Valley news now, the Lebanon City Council voted last night to approve a new 20-year plan to address federal safety requirements at the Lebanon Municipal Airport. Councilors spoke and heard comments from the community before voting 6-2 in favor of the plan. Councilors say the new proposal requires the removal of fewer trees than previous plans, as well as other cost-saving measures. The \$46.7-million dollar plan will pay for the construction of two new hangars, and improvements to the airport's snow removal building as well as its aircraft rescue and fire-fighting building. Other improvements will include the addition of crushable concrete blocks at the end of runways to help stop planes that have gone too far while preventing injuries to those on board. The city has already met backlash from residents in regards to previously approved improvements, including the installation of two 90-foot hazard beacons and the removal of trees along Poverty Lane. Failing to comply with the FAA's requirements would put the airport in jeopardy of losing federal funding.

Further South in NH, the Charlestown Fire Department received some welcomed news this week by way of a \$21,000 dollar insurance claim to go toward the purchase of a new furnace. The station's furnace malfunctioned back in November, covering the 1 Main Street building with soot as a result. A claim was filed shortly after, with the insurance company agreeing to pay for the cleanup and the purchase of a new furnace. As is customary when municipalities are given outside funds, the Charlestown Select board held a vote last night to accept the claim, which was agreed upon unanimously.

The Select board and fire chief Charlie Baraly researched new furnaces throughout December and January, and came to a decision on a new model earlier this month. A new furnace was delivered to the station last week, but unfortunately, it was the wrong model and had to be returned. Board members say the correct furnace should arrive by the end of this week.

YCN News: surrounding towns around Vermont Yankee are reducing their emergency plans as the shutdown goes according to plan.

It's no secret that the Claremont Planned Parenthood clinic ended 2015 a little shaken, having suffered from two crimes against the Pleasant Street organization in October. However, the health care and family clinic reopened in late November and received a visit yesterday from Democratic US Senator Jeanne Shaheen to highlight the organization's resilience and commitment despite vocal opposition. At the location, she underwent a tour of the newly renovated facility and said that the Republicans' ongoing efforts to undermine the organization is a waste of taxpayer dollars. The Senator spoke with Vice President of Public Policy Jennifer Frizzell, who stressed the importance of the Claremont location and how the period of time it was closed severely hindered many in the region. The Claremont office of the national organization was vandalized twice in October, beginning with an individual spray painting a baby on the window with the word "Murderer" underneath. Two weeks later, a juvenile male broke in and destroyed much of the interior of the building with a hatchet. After her visit to Planned Parenthood, Shaheen also spoke to students at nearby River Valley Community College.

News out of Brattleboro now as the shutdown of the Vermont Yankee Power Plant in nearby Vernon is going all according to plan. What's more is that surrounding towns are reducing their emergency preparedness. *The Brattleboro Reformer* reports that the nuclear power plant's shutdown is on track with its schedule and that the risk to surrounding towns in a potential disaster is decreasing further and further. Brattleboro's fire chief, Mike Bucossi, told the town's Select board on Tuesday night that he has been working to condense the town's emergency planning book for a radiological disaster, as the risk to the town is decreasing as the shutdown process continues. Vermont Yankee shut its doors in December of 2014 and half a month later on January 12, 2015, all the fuel rods were removed from the reactor and placed in fuel cooling towers. Entergy, the company who owns the plant, says that April 15th will be the ideal date when the rods will be cool enough and safe. At that point, Entergy will appoint a trained individual to watch over the plant on site.

Here's a story for all you animal lovers out there, as the Vermont Game Warden Association rescued a four legged animal from the clutches of some deep snow yesterday morning in Windsor. A passerby driving past a river in Windsor yesterday noticed this deer that had gotten stuck up to its front shoulders in deep snow and ice as it tried crossing the river. The motorist called it in to Warden Timothy Carey, who responded to scene and after a little preparation, waded waist deep into the snow and

began shoveling out the deer. After some vigorous yet careful digging, Carey freed the animal and it was able to run away, a little shaken but otherwise unfazed. Carey recorded the rescue on a camera and the Vermont Game Warden Association posted it on their Facebook page, garnering more than 9000 views and 500 likes from animal lovers across the Twin States. The Vermont Game Warden Association is based out of Waterbury, roughly 70 miles up I-89.

And in Campaign 2016 news, tonight will mark the second part of an ongoing Republican Town Hall meeting where three candidates will give more personal remarks and interact on a more personal level than on the debate stage. The first town hall took place last night with Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, and Ben Carson at 8 PM in Greenville, South Carolina. Tonight, the remaining three candidates, John Kasich, Jeb Bush, and Donald Trump will take the stage at 8 in Columbia, and will be moderated by Anderson Cooper, who took the reigns last night as well.

If you're interested in picking up the second part of the town hall discussion, you can tune in to CNN, CNN International, or on CNNgo online. The campaign ratchets up in just two days as Saturday brings the Republican Caucus in South Carolina as well as the Democratic Caucus in Nevada. The Republican Caucus in Nevada is next Tuesday and South Carolina's Democrats will have their chance to vote next weekend on Saturday the 27th.

Friday, February 19th. YCN News:

We start tonight with crime news out of Vermont as police in Bellows Falls arrested a man last night for DUI and driving with a suspended license, among other charges. Around 8:00 last night, Officer M. Checchi of the Bellows Falls Police Department pulled over 25-year old Matthew A. Daniels of Athen Vermont on Route 121 for traffic offenses. Daniels promptly pulled over his vehicle just across the Bellows Falls town line and pulled off the roadway, parking in a residence's yard. Officer Checchi detected signs that the Vermont man was under the influence of both alcohol and marijuana and found that Daniels had a suspended license from a prior DUI conviction in 2014. A small infant was also present in the vehicle and Daniels was subsequently charged with Cruelty to a Child, DUI 2nd Offense, DUI-Criminal Refusal, and Operating After Suspension-Criminal. He was processed and was held at the Southern State Correctional Facility until sober, before being cited to appear in court at a later date.

As we teased, some college students caused quite a stir yesterday at a local school through a mischievous act. At Dartmouth College, a dormitory was evacuated early yesterday morning after a pair of trash cans were discovered on fire in the building. Officials evacuated the Streeter Hall dormitory shortly after 3 a.m. yesterday morning, and no injuries were reported as a result of the incident. Officials say they believe the fires were set intentionally, and that the incident is being investigated as felony arson. Streeter Hall is primarily a freshman dormitory, located on College Street across from Wheeler Hall. Members of the Hanover police and fire departments responded to the scene, as well as Dartmouth College Safety and Security, and the State Fire Marshall.

The scene was quickly deemed under control, with students allowed to re-enter the building within an hour. It was not immediately known if the building sustained any damage. Anyone with information on the fire is asked to call Hanover Police at 603-643-2222 or Dartmouth Safety and Security at 603-646-4000.

Sticking with education news, a Hanover man has been elected to a prestigious position at another area college. Colby-Sawyer College in New London has announced the election of Peter F. Volanakis as the next chair of the college's Board of Trustees. Volanakis, a resident of Hanover, joined the board in 2012 and is part of multiple committees on campus, including the Presidential Search Committee and the Board Organization Committee. Volanakis said that he has developed a "deep appreciation and respect for the unique role that Colby-Sawyer plays in the New England higher education scene" and that he is "proud to be part of that". Although he did not attend Colby-Sawyer as a student, his education is local, having graduated from nearby Dartmouth with a Bachelors in economics and later, a Masters of Businesses Administration.

He went on to become the president of Corning Incorporated, a manufacturer of glass, ceramics, and materials, which he retired from in 2010. Volanakis will take office on July 1st of this year and will succeed Thomas Castari, who has held the chair position since 2011.

Further North in Lebanon, the Lebanon Police Department is taking advantage of the growing trend of community engagement in New Hampshire and throughout the nation by hosting its first Coffee with a Cop event next month. According to a press release issued yesterday afternoon, the department will host the event March 1 at 8 a.m. at the Fort Restaurant on Heater Road, with any Lebanon resident encouraged to attend. Officers say the intent of the program is to provide people with an opportunity to discuss community issues and build relationships with local law enforcement officers. Coffee with a Cop is a national initiative created by the United State Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Several other communities in the area host similar events, including both the Sunapee and Charlestown police departments. The event is free to attend, and anyone with questions is encouraged to contact Lebanon Police Capt. Tim Cohen at 603-448-8800.

YCN News: skateboarders in Brattleboro may be getting a new skate park to shred.

The future of a unique Claremont church is unclear after the 87-year-old building was sold earlier this week to a resident of the city. City officials confirmed yesterday that the First United Methodist Church - also known as the "Old Stone Church" - was sold to Claremont resident Laurie Hillebrand on Tuesday, with the Sullivan County Registry of Deeds recording the transaction Wednesday. The building - located on 27 Sullivan Street - was sold for \$250,000 dollars, which is significantly less than the building's last appraised value of about \$340,000 dollars determined in 2014. Church member Priscilla

Hull announced the sale in a Facebook post, saying “the sale allows us to move forward with our work of mission and discipleship.” Members of the church will now meet at a nearby church on Old Church Road. It was not immediately known what Hillebrand’s plans for the building were, though out-going city manager Guy Santagate told the *Eagle Times* the sale is a very good sign for the city’s economic development.

Crossing into Vermont now, skaters and BMX bikers in Brattleboro are a little closer to dropping into their very own quarterpipe after a decision made by the town’s Select board this week. The board voted to allow Brattleboro’s Parks and Rec Department to submit an application for a \$230,000 grant that would pay for the construction of a potential skate park at the Living Memorial Park. The National Creative Placemaking Grant is offered by ArtPlace America, a collaboration of foundations, federal agencies, and financial institutions that aim to ensure arts and culture are considered in community planning. Applicants are required to prove the project’s ability to improve the community, and show the project’s use of art. The Parks and Rec Department is considering a 4,200-square foot skate park that would include parking, though specifics into the park’s features have not yet been designed. The deadline for municipalities to submit applications is March 2, and responses are anticipated by May 31.

Well in a similar story to ones that we’ve had out of Woodstock and Hartford Vermont, some New Hampshire towns will be undergoing property assessment to realign their values with what they’re worth. Starting in the immediate future, the towns of Sunapee, Newbury, and New London will all be undergoing tri-town assessing, being conducted by assessing staff and representatives on properties that have had changes in their building permits or are up for review. The staff will be measuring the exterior of homes and if no one is home to provide consent for an interior measurement, they will estimate the interior. Once an assessment of a home is completed in any of three towns, a property card will be mailed to the respective homeowner, which can be reviewed by the owner for accuracy. The Tri-Town Assessing Staff manage an assessment roll of about 8400 parcels totalling nearly three billion dollars in property value. For any questions on the process, you can contact your respective town office for more information.

And staying in the Sunapee area tonight, the Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice held their annual meeting yesterday.

(PKG, transcript below)

Congratulations to Ross Scott for his award and for the fine work being done by the Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice.

Monday, February 22nd. YCN News:

We begin tonight with news out of Enfield as residents will have to wait at least another year before the possibility of construction beginning on a brand new library. That’s

because library trustees have withdrawn their request for a \$2.5-million dollar bond to be included in the town's budget, after both selectmen and the budget committee voted against its recommendation. According to the *Valley News*, library trustees have been raising money for a new facility since 2008, and have collected almost a million of the \$3.2 million dollars required for the project. Library Trustees had hoped the town could account for the remainder with the inclusion of a warrant article in its proposed budget, but that idea was met with little support from town officials. Residents will vote on a proposed \$6.1 million dollar operating budget March 8, which could top out close to 10 million if all recommended spending articles are also approved.

Well the list of colleges and universities nationwide that have banned the use of hoverboards on campus has grown yet again, and much to the dismay of Ivy League students in Hanover. Dartmouth College announced in an email to students that the devices - which are similar to Segways but without handles and are much smaller - have been temporarily barred from campus until safety concerns are addressed. Hoverboards can be dangerous to new users and have been known to catch fire due to a battery issue. Dartmouth is now among 30-plus colleges nationwide to ban the devices, and joins the University of New Hampshire as the only two colleges in the Granite State that disallow their use. In the email to students, residential operations director Cathy Henault wrote that "the decision was reached based on recommendations by many organizations including the Consumer Product Safety Commission." Students who currently have hoverboards on campus are asked to contact the office of campus services to arrange for their removal.

It took personnel from two separate fire departments about two hours Sunday to rescue an injured teen from a Lebanon hiking trail. According to the Lebanon Fire Department, an unidentified 18-year-old woman injured her ankle while hiking on the Boston Lot trails in Lebanon shortly after 8:30 a.m. Crews responded to the scene soon after, and utilized GPS coordinates provided by 911 dispatchers to reach the hiker by 9 a.m. First responded requested additional assistance from members of the Hanover Fire Department, who helped carry the hiker out of the woods and back to the parking area by approximately 10:30. Once back in the parking lot, the woman refused transport to hospital via ambulance, and the scene was cleared shortly after. Members of the Hartford Fire Department provided coverage in Lebanon during the call. Authorities are reminding hikers to always wear proper clothing - especially footwear - on trails, and to make sure you have a means of contacting authorities should a problem occur.

On Saturday in nearby Dorchester, a Canaan man suffered non-life threatening injuries after losing control of his snowmobile and driving the machine into a cluster of trees. According to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, 55-year-old Michael Stewart lost control of his snowmobile shortly after 11 a.m. while leading a group of riders near the area of Clough Road. A member of Stewart's group then called 911, prompting a response from Fish and Game, Warren-Wentworth Fire and Rescue, and Hebron Fire and Rescue. Authorities stabilized Stewart on the scene, and brought him to the road where he was then transported to nearby Spear Memorial Hospital in

Plymouth via ambulance. Officials say the accident occurred less than three-tenths of a mile from where the group had parked their cars. The scene was cleared by first responders by 1 p.m., and updates on Stewart's condition were not immediately known.

YCN News: Windsor Police bust a large marijuana growing operation in town on Friday.

In crime news now out of nearby Windsor Vermont, authorities on Friday arrested two people for cultivating a marijuana grow operation in their apartment. On Friday morning, around 10 AM, the Windsor Police Department conducted an investigation into an alleged marijuana growing and distribution operation at an apartment at 153 Main Street, between the former fire station and the Cumberland Farms. Inside, police found a grow operation with nearly 50 plants and arrested 53-year old Steven Mann and 25-year old Leona Hunt on charges of marijuana cultivation, possession of a hallucinogenic drug, possession of a stimulant, and cruelty to a child. The Department of Children and Families took custody of a child who lived with the two residents. Police say that all 50 of the plants were confiscated and the amount of marijuana was estimated at a street value of around \$75,000. Additionally, multiple bags of marijuana packaged for sale, hallucinogenic mushrooms, hashish, and money were all confiscated from the scene.

News out of Newport now as the town's taxes may be a little lower in 2017 thanks to a recent vote by the town's Select board . Late last week on Thursday, Newport's Select board , consisting of five members and headed by Gary Nichols, voted unanimously to suggest to Town Manager Shane O'Keefe to cut \$0.75 cents per thousand from the town budget. Newport's tax rate currently is \$11.55 and as the budget now stands, the proposed tax rate would be 45 cents more for next year. If the suggested cut is implemented, the rate would be lowered by 30 cents. However, an amendment to the approved cut determines that the cut will not take any money from the budgets for the Newport Recreation Department, Richards Free Library, or the road overlay project, which aims to pave and improve the condition of roads in town. Having been approved by the Select board , Town Manager O'Keefe will review the change and continue to work on the budget. The budget for 2017 is still in the works and will be presented once again on February 29th, next Monday night.

We switch to Claremont now as a local business with national recognition is doing their part to help our country's veterans avoid homelessness. Red River, located on Water Street, has just announced its donation of \$20,000 to support the Friends of Veterans Heating Fund. The donation was given through Red River's standalone philanthropic organization, the Red River Charitable Foundation, and the money itself came from the generous pockets and hands of employees who raised the money through a variety of employee fundraising programs. Friends of Veterans is an all-volunteer non profit that serves veterans all across both Vermont and New Hampshire. The group's goal is to help veterans and their families improve their lives to avoid homelessness. Red River says that it is a long standing tradition at the local company for employees to

enthusiastically contribute to the many philanthropic activities that they sponsor. Red River, besides assisting veterans, made two national lists last year including being one of the “coolest places for young people to work” and as one of the fastest growing companies in the nation.

And now in regards to local arts, the Wilmot Library in none other than Wilmot is currently holding a community weaving project where local residents can contribute to a large wall hanging. Community members all over are encouraged to stop in and add their own mark. Wilmot Librarian Rosanna Dude explains.

PKG

The Wilmot Library is located on 11 North Wilmot Road and is open every day of the week except Sunday.

Tuesday, February 23rd. YCN News:

We begin tonight with what’s proving to be a frustrating investigation for local authorities into significant damage found at a historic covered bridge Cornish over the weekend. Damage was first discovered on the Dingleton Hill Covered Bridge - which was built in 1882 and carries Root Hill Road over the Mill Brook - Saturday morning to both siding and framing at one of the entrances. The bridge was briefly closed, so that authorities could better examine the scene, but it has since reopened. Investigators seized pieces of what they believe to be amber warning strobe lights at the scene, suggesting the vehicle could have been a large delivery or tow truck. Authorities have sought help from residents in the area to see if any such deliveries or towing events were recently witnessed, but investigators have so far come up empty handed. Anyone with information into the investigation is encouraged to call Cornish Police Chief Doug Hackett at 603-543-0535.

Over in Hanover, school district officials announced yesterday the appointment of assistant principal Sarah Curtis as acting principal of the Bernice A. Ray School after its former principal unexpectedly resigned last week. According to an email from the district to parents and staff sent Friday, former principal Matt Laramie cited personal reasons for resigning from the post that he’s held since 2011. Laramie has been credited for expanding the school’s kindergarten program from half to full days, and implementing a Spanish-language program for all students. Though Curtis is now serving in the role as acting principal, district officials say a search is under way for an interim principal to complete the remainder of the school year. The *Valley News* reports that a candidate may be named as soon as Friday, and could possibly begin as soon as Monday. District officials are also seeking parent volunteers to form a search committee for a permanent replacement.

Crossing into Vermont now, police in Springfield arrested a 47-year-old woman over the weekend on charges of domestic assault and preventing access to emergency services.

According to police, officers responded to a residence at an unknown location on reports of domestic violence, and quickly arrested Janet Williams, of Springfield, once on the scene. Police concluded in their investigation that Williams had allegedly assaulted an unidentified man, and prevented him from contacting authorities by slapping a phone out of his hands. Williams was transported to the Springfield Police Department for processing, and housed at the nearby Southern State Correctional Facility for lack of \$1,500 cash bail. No information was made available as to the condition of the victim, or whether he was transported to a hospital for treatment. While domestic violence is most commonly associated against women, statistics from the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence say that 1 in 7 men have been victim to the crime in some form.

Well right here in Claremont, a vote by the city's planning board last night could bring up to 70 new jobs to the area if a local business follows through with plans to construct a food-processing plant on unused industrial space. Butcher Block Inc., more commonly known as the North Country Smokehouse - located across from the airport - received a unanimous vote of approval last night from the Select board on site plans for the proposed plant. The proposed 67-thousand square foot facility would be located within the Syd Clarke Industrial Park, and merge three existing lots together. The food-processing plant would work in direct correlation with the smokehouse, and hire up to 70 employees over five years to work two shifts. Board members credited the smokehouse for the thoroughness of its plans and attention to the surrounding ecology. The North Country Smokehouse was founded back in 1912, and is one of the country's final family-owned smokehouses.

YCN News: a Brattleboro man is arrested for robbing a Domino's delivery driver.

In crime news now, a Brattleboro man was apprehended yesterday for allegedly robbing a delivery driver. Brattleboro Police say that last Tuesday around 8:50 PM, they responded to a reported robbery at 72 Canal Street and they learned that a Domino's delivery driver had been robbed at knifepoint by an unidentified male. The male fled upon receiving money and no injuries were reported. The Brattleboro Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division responded to the scene and began an investigation. After roughly a week, 26-year old Michael J. Lenois Jr. was arrested yesterday morning on probable cause and was taken in without incident while walking on Canal Street. Lenois is currently facing charges of aggravated assault and robbery as well as larceny from person. He's locked up at the Brattleboro Police Department and his bail was set at \$10,000. Lenois will be arraigned at a later date at the Windham County Superior Court Criminal Division.

Well this story will seem familiar to anyone who joined us last week, as the national Coffee with a Cop trend is taking off with yet another local department. The Hanover Police Department is inviting residents to join them for coffee Thursday morning at the

Hanover Inn to create and foster some relationships between officers and residents. It's taking place from 8 AM to 10 AM in the Hayward Room of the Inn and the Hanover PD hopes to introduce some of their new faces on the force and meet with citizens outside of emergency situations. Coffee with a Cop is a national initiative created by the United State Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Several other communities in the area host similar events, including both the Sunapee and Charlestown police departments. Last week, the nearby Lebanon Police Department announced that they are hosting a Coffee with a Cop event of their own on March 1st, next Tuesday.

Yesterday, the Sunapee Seniors held a town office and school board candidate forum at the Lake Sunapee Methodist Church in town. Candidates running for town selectman, fire engineer, water and sewer commission, and school board were each given five minutes to speak and five minutes to answer questions from the town residents.

Budgets, taxes, transparency in government, and communication with town residents dominated most town discussion while school issues also touched on subjects of bullying, curriculum, class sizes, and student population at the Middle High School. Bullying remains a predominant issue within the Sunapee school systems, with parents and students citing bullying from other students as well as staff and administrators. The School Board is actively trying to address the issue. A second Sunapee town office and school school board candidates forum will be held on Monday, February 29th at the Sunapee Methodist Church in Sunapee sponsored by Project Sunapee. Doors open at 6:30 PM with the forum beginning at 7 PM.

Well it's not every day that you get to see an action movie in real life, but some residents in Claremont got to witness a little bit of that today. The NH State Police SWAT Team conducted training today between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM at the Topstone building on Mulberry Street. The Topstone building, formerly the Topstone Mill, houses a restaurant on the bottom floor, the Time-Out Americana Grill, owned by Nicholas Koloski. The SWAT Team trained on the 4th and 5th floors of the building, which are vacant, and the public was advised prior to the training to not be alarmed if they saw a heavy presence of tactical law enforcement in the area. Now here's an interesting note, the popular television show Ghost Hunters, during their 8th season, actually conducted an investigation at the Topstone building, as it is rumored to be haunted. Having previously been a shoe and furniture store, the episode was called "Fear Factory" and the crew discovered and recorded alleged supernatural activity. With that said, it's good to know that the NH Police SWAT Team may possibly now be prepared to deal with the supernatural.

Wednesday, February 24th. YCN News:

We start tonight with news out of Claremont as police need your help looking for a missing teenager. 17-year old Carrie Holland was reported missing by her mother after the weekend and is believed to be in the Claremont or Newport area where she was last

seen. Holland was last seen wearing tan leather work boots, a black jacket with a fur hood, and a tan purse. She is described as being a white non-Hispanic female, standing around 5' 4" with brown hair and green eyes. Holland also wears glasses. If you know anything about her whereabouts or know anyone who does, you are urged to contact Claremont police at 603-542-9538 or to contact your own local police department, who will relay the information. Besides local departments, the State of New Hampshire's Investigative Services Bureau often assists in missing person cases and currently has five cases open for people who have been missing since 2001.

Officials over at Dartmouth College have amended plans for a proposed parking garage that is to be built along West Wheelock Street in order to accommodate concerns raised by neighboring residents. The college had submitted plans to the zoning board earlier this month requesting to expand the campus's institutional district to West Wheelock street in order to build a structure up to 60-feet high. But residents raised concern about having a non-residential structure on the corridor, prompting the college to change its request. Instead, college officials are now asking that height and other restrictions be eased in the institutional areas abutting the corridor. Currently, buildings in the area cannot exceed 35-feet in height. The garage would allow for additional parking needed after the displacement of several spots due to construction of the new Thayer School of Engineering building nearby. The zoning board is scheduled discuss the new proposal at a public hearing March 1.

Well amid a growing amount of incidents involving ski lifts here in the East, state regulators over in Vermont have taken the preemptive measure of shutting down a popular lift so it can be repaired. State inspectors were requested to visit the Suicide Six Ski Area in South Pomfret, Vermont, after a weekend accident on a West Virginia chair lift in which some 25 people fell off. The *Valley News* reports that three similar lifts to the one involved in that accident are operating in Vermont, with one of those being the primary lift at Suicide Six - the other two, at Dover's Mount Snow and Londonderry's Stratton Mountain were inspected and cleared to resume operation. Inspections to the Suicide Six lift, however, revealed cracks and various strains to two supporting towers, forcing regulators to shut it down. The ski area has been closed since Monday's inspection, and director of recreation Chuck Vanderstreet told the *Valley News* he expects the slopes to remain closed through Thursday.

And now a follow-up to a story we brought you just last night, as police have finally identified the driver of a vehicle that caused significant damage to the historic Dingleton Hill Covered Bridge in Cornish over the weekend. According to Cornish police, a call came in shortly after a 6 p.m. from the owner of a local company saying one of his drivers was responsible for the damage. Police are withholding the driver's identity and the type of vehicle involved until their investigation is complete. Damage to the bridge - which spans some 78-feet over the Mill Brook along Root Hill Road - was first discovered Saturday at one of its entrances. Police found pieces of an amber strobe light at the scene, suggesting that the vehicle could have been a large delivery or tow truck. Police say an estimate on the cost of the damage has not yet been completed,

and that the driver could face charges, including conduct after an accident, as well as vehicle height-and-weight violations.

YCN News: the Vermont Air National Guard will be doing some maneuvers over our region in the next week.

In crime news now, Brattleboro police arrested three people during one traffic stop for possession of drugs and contempt of court. In a press release issued today, Brattleboro Police say that on February 20th, this past Saturday, they stopped a vehicle on Williams Street for a minor motor vehicle infraction. When police spoke to the driver, identified as 26-year old Brian Deistler, officers discovered that he had court-ordered conditions of release to not have any contact with a certain individual, who was riding as a passenger in the vehicle. He was arrested, processed, and released on a court citation. 25-year old Cara Rodrigues, a passenger in the vehicle, had also been on court orders to not contact a certain individual, who was riding as a passenger in the car. A third person in the car, with the help of Vermont State Police's K9 Unit, was arrested for possession of crack cocaine, identified as 41-year old Richard Getz. Both Rodrigues and Getz were issued a citation to appear in court at a later date and time.

Across the river in Lebanon, the city's police department is now offering a safe place to dispose of any used and unwanted needles. The installation of the Sharps Disposal Container, or drop box, is the product of a partnership between the Lebanon PD and Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital. The goal of the box is to allow community members a safe, environmentally friendly, and confidential way of disposing of used needles. The container is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and anyone needing the service can simply stop in and drop off a needle or needles and no questions will be asked. Lebanon Police already offer a drug drop box in the lobby and police say that adding a needle drop box is a "logical extension to this program." Nearby, Sunapee installed a drop box of its own in the Emergency Services Building in September, but only accepts unused medication and not needles.

For all of you military buffs out there, like myself, the Vermont Air National Guard will be giving us something to gawk at over the next week or so. The practices began yesterday and will be going until March 5th as the Vermont Air National Guard conducts night flying training operations between Tuesday and Saturday. All of the flights will land approximately at 11:00 PM and residents across Vermont and New Hampshire, including our region, are advised to not be alarmed when they see military jets flying overhead. The Vermont Air National Guard is based out of Burlington and was established back in 1946, right after the close of World War II. In 1992, the fighter wing became the 158th Fighter Wing and today provides air defense as part of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or more commonly known as NORAD. The 158th currently flies F-16 Falcon jets but is scheduled to receive the more modern F-35 in the year 2020. Again, the flight practices will be taking place at night from now until the end of next week.

And finally tonight, YCN has been following the progress on the construction of Newport Health Center and we asked Karen Zurheide, Vice President of Community Relations, how the project was going.

PKG

If you would like to support this project, Karen would love to hear from you. You can get in touch with her by calling the hospital at 603-526-2911.

Thursday, February 25th. YCN News:

Well one of two finalists to become the next principal of Hartford High School withdrew his application earlier this week. This could put the district in an awkward position depending on the results of a previously-scheduled public forum. The district narrowed the field to Andy Hass, an assistant principal at Brattleboro Union High School, and Nelson Fogg, assistant principal at Hartford High, earlier this month, and had scheduled a public forum with the candidates to meet parents, faculty, and members of community to be held next week. But with Hass having withdrawn himself from consideration, Wednesday's forum will now only feature one choice for those in attendance. Hartford School District Superintendent Tom DeBalsi told the *Valley News* that the outcome of Fogg's forum will determine whether the search committee will offer him the position, or review more candidates. Fogg was a longtime social studies teacher at the school, before being promoted to assistant principal in 2012.

Residents of Norwich won't have to go without a Town Manager after Neil Fulton steps down from the role later this week, as the Select board last night officially approved an interim replacement. The board unanimously approved Phil Dechert, the town's planning and zoning director, to fill in as Town Manager until March 25, or until the board finds a more permanent replacement. Fulton - who told the board of his upcoming resignation last week - has served as Norwich's Town Manager for 41 years. The board has held several meetings to define a process of finding a long-term replacement to begin after March 25. Dechert - who is the same age as Fulton at 72-years-old - will be paid an annual salary of a little more than \$75,000 dollars, and will have all the powers and duties of the Town Manager. Norwich will hold its annual town meeting March 1, with the Select board to hold its next regular-scheduled meeting the following week.

In crime news, a 59-year-old Springfield, Vermont man who was arrested on burglary charges in November with his son and two other accomplices failed to appear for his arraignment earlier this week. Now, a warrant is out for his arrest. David Farnsworth was supposed to appear in Windsor Superior Court on Tuesday to answer to several felony and misdemeanor charges stemming from a string of robberies this past fall. Police had said David Farnsworth admitted to burglaries after his arrest, saying it was a means of supporting a heroin addiction. Farnsworth's son, 26-year-old Michael Farnsworth, did appear before a judge Tuesday, and pleaded not guilty to similar

charges. Michael Farnsworth remains held at the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield on \$2,500 dollars bail. 23-year-old Zachary McNeill also failed to show up for his arraignment Tuesday on charges stemming from the same incidents, prompting a warrant for his arrest as well. Another accomplice, 26-year-old Joshua Congdon, pleaded not guilty to burglary in January.

Staying in the courts, a 35-year-old Windsor, Vermont woman pleaded not guilty Tuesday to a total of nine charges in connection with forged checks totaling more than \$400 dollars. Michelle Cormier faces three felony forgery charges and six misdemeanors charges, including counts of false pretense and petty larceny, as a result of allegations she forged checks from the checkbook owned by her employer. Cormier had been hired to clean the victim's home in November and December of last year, until it was discovered that \$425 dollars worth of unauthorized checks had been cashed by the victim. According to court documents, Cormier initially denied forging and cashing three separate checks, but later said she lied for fear of getting in trouble. After entering her plea in Windsor Superior Court, Cormier was released on \$5,000 dollars bail. She is next due in court April 12 at the White River Junction courthouse.

YCN News: a public forum is being held in Claremont next week to look to the city's future.

We've got an update now in one of our top stories this week as new information released today reveals that the damage done to a covered bridge in Cornish was actually done by a school bus. Police discovered damage to a section of the Dingleton Hill Covered Bridge on Saturday and sought the driver of a large vehicle, given the type of damage. Today, a representative of the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union Bus Transportation Department contacted Cornish police after having seen news outlets run stories on the damage earlier this week. A press release states that 67-year old Allan Henderson damaged the bridge with his school bus after getting lost while transporting the Otter Valley girls basketball team to Windsor High School. The bus had crossed the bridge to turn around and find the right route, however the bridge has a clearance of only 7 feet and 3 inches compared to the bus's 10 feet and 4 inches. Police say that charges are pending against Henderson, including conduct after an accident, over-height vehicle, and over-weight vehicle charges.

Bringing the news to right here in Claremont, the city is hoping to get a glimpse of its future through a public forum being held next week. Being held in the Claremont Middle School on Wednesday, March 3rd, a Master Plan Public Forum hopes to gather input from residents and community members on the goals and future for the city. It's taking place at 5:30 PM till around 8 and refreshments will be served on top of a light dinner. The Master Plan is used by Departments, Boards, and Commissions as they develop new projects and steer Claremont into the future. Next Wednesday, the Public Forum will help address issues in town, such as housing, transportation, energy, economic development, and land use, to name a few. The forum itself will be facilitated by

members of the Master Plan Steering Committee and the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. RSVPs are appreciated but are not necessary and you can call 603-504-0341 to do so or to get more information.

Across and down the river in Brattleboro now, students in town will have a new learning opportunity in the form of a school without walls. Oak Meadow, an experiential homeschooling curriculum for grades K-8, is holding information sessions on its new collaborative learning center for high school students next week. It will be called the Brattleboro School Without Walls, or SW2, and will open in the fall of this year. The idea of SW2 is to encourage high school students enrolled in Oak Meadow to take classes and courses at various organizations in the Brattleboro area where they can earn credit towards their diploma. Some local programs that are eligible for the students' credit include the Vermont Wilderness School, the Vermont Jazz Center, and the New England Circus for the Arts. The informational sessions for this school without walls are all taking place next week, on March 1st at 1 PM, March 2nd at 5:30 PM, and March 5th at 11 AM. All are occurring at the Oak Meadow offices in the historic Brooks House in the downtown.

And finally tonight, it's no secret that our region is full of history and one historic landmark right down in Charlestown has made it on a list of places to see in NH. OnlyInYourState.com posted a list on Tuesday chronicling the "10 Places in New Hampshire That You Must See Before You Die", boasting that the 10 places are "so uniquely New Hampshire that everyone must visit them". Charlestown's Fort at No. 4 made the list at the #9 spot right behind #8's New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon. The list explains that Fort at No. 4 is impressive any time, but is especially neat during war reenactments, which occur regularly at the reconstructed colonial fort. The original fort was involved in both King George's War and the French and Indian War, and although it fell into disrepair, it was rebuilt and turned into a living history museum in the 1960s. In case you were wondering, taking the top spots on the online list are the Mount Washington Summit at #2 for obvious reasons and the Isle of Shoals on the coast is advertised as the #1 place you should visit in New Hampshire in your lifetime.

Friday, February, 26th. YCN News:

Well it's not exactly a birther issue like the one being talked about by some Republican presidential candidates, but councilors here in Claremont are looking into the possibility of changing a requirement that insists certain department heads live within the city. The requirement recently became a dilemma when Cornish resident Scott Sweet was named interim public works director last year. Outgoing Town Manager Guy Santage has said he wants Sweet to be named the permanent director, but the residency requirement - approved by voters in 2003 - prevents that. Santagate presented a letter from law firm Orr and Reno to the city council during its meeting Feb. 10, in which attorneys said the city has a solid case arguing that the residency requirement for the public works director is unconstitutional. The council voted Wednesday night to meet

with the New Hampshire Municipal Association to learn whether it needs to revise or amend the city charter. Either way, residents would still vote on a potential change.

Now following up on a story we brought you last week on a pair of purposely set trash fires at a Dartmouth College dormitory, as one student has so far been arrested in connection with the crimes. According to Hanover Police, 19-year-old Vikram Naidu, of Saratoga, Calif., was arrested earlier this week on felony charges of arson and reckless conduct stemming from the Feb. 18 incident. Firefighters evacuated Streeter Hall - primarily a freshman dormitory - shortly after 3 a.m., and reported no injuries. The arrest comes as the result of a joint investigation among Hanover police and the New Hampshire Fire Marshal's office, though the case remains active and additional arrests could be pending. Naidu was released on \$5,000 cash bail and \$25,000 personal recognizance, and is scheduled to be arraigned in 2nd Circuit Court Lebanon Division on April 4. Anyone with information on the fires is encouraged to contact Hanover police at 603-643-2222.

Over in Hartford, Vermont, residents will be treated to an odd surprise during tomorrow's community day, as officials plan to unveil the town's newest town manager. According to a press release issued yesterday by the Hartford Select board and its town manager search committee, a new town manager has been hired and will be introduced to the public at 10 a.m. in the Hartford High School gymnasium. But in contrast to that release, the *Valley News* is reporting that no vote has yet been taken by the board on a hire, and that such a vote - and the signing of a contract - will take place at a special meeting prior to tomorrow's event. Community days - as they're called in Hartford, are public informational hearings on proposed amendments to the town charter. The session will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Whoever it is, the new hire will replace longtime Town Manager Hunter Rieseberg who retired from the position in August.

Down in Brattleboro, state and town officials are still reeling from Wednesday night's storm and the dramatic shift in temperature, as significant damage has forced portions of a popular roadway to be closed. Detours have been set up in the affected areas on Black Mountain Road, which consisted of several deep potholes and possible damage to the road's retaining wall. The affected area is mostly between Kipling Road and Dickenson Road. The Town Manager's Office said in a press release yesterday that officials are assessing the extent of the damage and will develop a plan for addressing it. Wednesday and Thursday were busy days for firefighters in the town, with numerous calls regarding flooded basements and severe stream backups. Flooding at a culvert near the Black Mountain Trailer Park - unrelated to the damage further up the road - forced the brief closure of nearby Interstate 91 early Thursday morning. As for Black Mountain Road, an inspection of its retaining wall is scheduled for next week.

YCN News: a large development in Quechee is slowly moving ahead, despite some opposition.

An update now on a story we've had previously on YCN News as a proposed development in Quechee has the green light to be built while a court battle continues over the project. The Quechee Highlands, a proposed residential and business development, was proposed by Pomfret resident and ex-gubernatorial candidate Scott Milne around 10 years ago, and has received both support and opposition. In early January, Milne received a land permit for the mixed use 115,000 square foot project that would include office, restaurant, and residential space. The Natural Resource Board granted Milne the permit which would essentially allow him to build as soon he wanted to, whether it be next week or months from now. Meanwhile, the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission has filed an appeal of the permit and is locked in a court battle with Milne on the development. Milne, who owns B&M Realty, is being patient for now and will most likely act based on the result of the court case, but is holding on to the land permit.

In other news, the Upper Valley Haven has taken in a homeless man who made headlines for living in a tent at the base of Storrs Hill, despite bitter temperatures. *The Valley News* reported earlier this week that on Saturday, Lebanon police had asked 60-year old John Caswell, who was living in a tarp tent near the bottom of Storrs Hill, to leave the property. However, on Tuesday, Caswell contacted authorities after temperatures dropped to only 13 degrees, and with no source of heat in his tent, got frostbite on his toes. The Upper Valley Haven in White River Junction took Caswell in and provided him with his own room and warm cot. Area residents, having heard about Caswell's encampment and survival in Tuesday's paper, offered him supplies, including water. At the Haven, staff are trying to find a permanent housing option for Caswell, who suffers from obstructive pulmonary disease and schizophrenia. His frostbite has since been treated and he is unsure of where he will wind up living.

A local restaurant in New London that has received a slew of awards in the past, is seeking even more this year. The Flying Goose Brew Pub and Grille has received multiple accolades over the years, including making the number one spot on WMUR's viewer poll last year for the best brewery in the state. New Hampshire Magazine is once again putting on their annual Best of NH Survey and the Flying Goose is asking area residents to vote for them again to continue their 4 year win streak. The brew pub is asking people to consider them for best chicken tenders, best brewery, best brew pub, and favorite restaurant, before March 25, when voting ends. As I mentioned before, the Flying Goose has already taken home several awards including two during the summer sessions of the 2014 United States Beer Tasting Championships. If you're a regular patron of the restaurant and would like to see it recognized once again, you can check out NHMagazine.com/BestofNHFoodBallot to vote.

And finally tonight, in the arts, the Library Arts Center in Newport recently unveiled its 2016 Selections Exhibit. This year, eight artists are represented in the exhibit and we spoke to the Office Assistant at the Library Arts Center, Biddy Irwin, to tell us more.

PKG

The exhibit is open until April 15th and admission to the Library Arts Center, as always, is free of charge.

Monday, February 29th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with news out of Bellows Falls as a pair of minors are in custody on allegations of assault and robbery causing serious bodily injury. According to Bellows Falls Police, officers responded to the intersection of Atkinson and Burt Street shortly after 4 a.m. Friday morning to find a 17-year-old boy suffering from serious bodily injuries. Police did not identify the minor or the type of injuries sustained, saying only that he was transported to a nearby hospital for treatment. On Friday afternoon, officers arrested a 16-year-old on Pine Street, and hours later, arrested a 17-year-old also within the village. Both teens - who police did not identify as they are under 18 - were charged with assault and robbery and were being held at the Southern State Correctional Facility in nearby Springfield in lieu of bail. Updates on the victim's condition were not immediately known, and YCN News will update this story as more information becomes available.

Across the river in New Hampshire, a pair of ill-prepared hikers were rescued off Mount Kearsarge on Sunday after they got lost descending an icy trail. According to New Hampshire Fish and Game, 22-year-old Binyam Yilma and 20-year-old Madison Hamilton, purposely left the popular Barlow Trail on their descent to avoid icy conditions. The two were unable to reconnect to the trail, however, and without proper equipment like a map, compass or GPS, were forced to call 911 for assistance. Dispatchers were able to identify the hikers' coordinates using signals from their phones, and the two were finally reached by rescue personnel at about 10 p.m. last night. The two were helped back to the trailhead, and were not said to have suffered any injuries. Authorities did say, though, that the pair could possibly be charged for the cost of their rescue. Just one day earlier, a hiker was airlifted off the summit of the mountain after having suffered an ankle injury on the icy trails.

Well it's crunch time over in Cornish as voters next week will get a chance to approve an article that would withdraw the town from the school district it shares with neighboring Claremont and Unity. If 60-percent of voters approve Article 3 during Town Meeting March 8, Cornish would no longer be a member town of SAU 6 beginning July 1. Cornish would instead operate as its own single-town district that would contract a part-time superintendent out of Plainfield, as well as a finance and special education director. Town officials say the move would save the district money and allow for greater control over the Cornish Elementary School. As for its operating budget, Cornish residents will be asked to approve a sum of \$3.5 million dollars, which is a decrease of almost \$250,000 from the town's current operating budget. If all warrant articles are approved, that total amount would increase to \$3.55 million dollars.

Over in Plainfield, voters will be asked some interesting questions in regards to the town's library and post office, as officials are considering the possibility of attaching the two buildings. Residents will be asked to approve a \$10,000 warrant article during Town Meeting March 12, that would pay for a study into the costs of physically moving the Meriden Post Office to the Meriden Library. The Post Office currently sits within the campus of Kimball Union Academy - though according to the *Valley News*, school officials have indicated they'd like to see the building move elsewhere. The town has also been researching ways to create a more handicap accessible entrance to the Meriden Library, and wants to know if attaching the building - located just about a mile away - and creating a common entrance, would solve both issues. Residents will be asked to approve a \$2.2 million dollar operating budget up nearly \$100,000 from last year's budget. That number would increase to \$2.5 million if all spending articles are approved.

YCN News: a child tells school officials her mom grows special plants, leading to a marijuana growing bust.

Now an update in a story we brought you last week regarding a marijuana grow operation busted in Windsor Vermont, that has made national headlines for its new development. Windsor Detective Jennifer Frank said in an affidavit that an 8-year old 2nd grader told school officials while at school that he got to help his mother's boyfriend grow "special medicine that can cure anything at all." The child had also said that people came to their house on 153 Main Street frequently. Police investigated the child's claims and arrested 53-year old Steven Mann and 25-year old Leona Hunt on charges of marijuana cultivation, possession of a hallucinogenic drug, possession of a stimulant, and cruelty to a child. The Department of Children and Families took custody of the child who lived at the home and had two "grow rooms" next to his bedroom. Police say that around 50 plants were confiscated and the amount of marijuana was estimated at a street value of around \$75,000. Additionally, multiple bags of marijuana packaged for sale, hallucinogenic mushrooms, hashish, and money were all confiscated from the scene. Steven Mann pleaded not guilty late last week on a felony charge of cultivating more than 25 marijuana plants.

For any of those who like a good workout and used to be a member of Claremont's Twisted Fitness, there will soon be another option for you right here on Pleasant Street. Right down the street from Twisted Fitness's former location, a new fitness club, called Real Steel Fitness, is planning to call Eersky's Hardware Store its new home. Eersky's Hardware will move to a new location while Real Steel, using equipment from Twisted Fitness, will open under the management of former Stevens High School Principal Frank Sprague, his wife, and Claremont resident Tim Chapin. Last week on Thursday, the Historic District Commission approved the sign and front doors for the new fitness club. Down the street, Twisted Fitness closed in the fall of last year, citing loss of membership to the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center, which offers lower prices for year-long memberships, especially for families. However, the opening of

Real Steel will offer Claremont and area residents a private fitness club to enroll in, which will offer 24/7 access, providing more flexible scheduling than that of the Community Center.

In local politics, tomorrow is town meeting day for many towns in our region, being the first Tuesday of March, where budgets and money will be discussed all day long. Meanwhile, local elections are also a hot topic of discussion and in the Kearsarge/Sunapee area, and one group is holding some forums to get to know the candidates running for municipal positions. We spoke with Liz Tentarelli last Friday, who is the president of the League of Women Voters NH, to tell us more about their candidate forums ahead of the elections next week.

PKG

As Liz said, the League is currently holding a meeting tonight at 7 PM, prior to the elections next week on March 8th.

And in national politics now, if you've been watching the campaign calendar, you already know this, but tomorrow is the fabled day known as Super Tuesday, which can make or break a presidential candidate's run for the office. Scheduled for March 1st, tomorrow, this notable day in any presidential run is known for having the potential to win most delegates out of any other day of the calendar year. Tomorrow, ten states will hold primaries and caucuses, voting on five Republican candidates and two Democratic candidates, whose names have become familiar by this point. The states are Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and Virginia. Meanwhile, Republican caucuses will be held in Alaska and Wyoming as well as a Democratic Caucus taking place in American Samoa. For you Vermonters, get out there and vote! And for us Granite Staters, we can just sit back and watch.

Tuesday, March 1st. YCN News:

We begin tonight with some big news out of Bellows Falls, Vermont, as officials announced yesterday they will no longer pursue the construction of a \$23-million dollar prison within the village. Windham County Sheriff Keith Clark - who originally proposed the prison nearly three months ago - said yesterday that the state will now look elsewhere to build a pre-trial detention center. The Liberty Mill Justice Center - as it was to be called - was proposed to be constructed at the site of the former Liberty Mill Paper Co., located on the riverfront on Paper Mill Road. But according to Clark, findings from a structural engineer revealed that the building was constructed some 30 to 40 years earlier than originally thought, and that it was in "terrible shape." The proposal was met with immediate concern among residents after it was announced in late November, and eventually led to the formation of a citizens group called "Rockingham for Progress."

The group hoped to prevent the prison's construction through changes to town zoning regulations.

Across the river in Newport, New Hampshire, driver fatigue is said to be the cause of a two-car accident yesterday on Route 11 that sent one person to the hospital with minor injuries. According to Newport Police, a silver Toyota Corolla driven by an unidentified woman veered over the centerline while driving East on Route 11 yesterday afternoon near the Newport Chevrolet dealership. The car clipped an oncoming vehicle, forcing the unidentified woman to over-correct and eventually crash into a tree. Police say the woman reportedly fell asleep at the wheel, and awoke just before veering into the opposite lane. She was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment of what's being called minor injuries. Police say neither of the three occupants of the second car were injured. Traffic was briefly delayed as a result of the 4:30 p.m. accident, though authorities had all lanes back open within an hour. Police have not said whether charges are pending.

Up in Lebanon, police say they arrested a 31-year-old Hartland, Vermont woman over the weekend accused of driving drunk with two children in the car. According to police, officers stopped Lindsey Shook shortly after 9:30 Saturday night for failing to use a turn signal. Upon making contact with the woman, officers determined she had been drinking and was unfit to operate the vehicle. Officers say there were two children in the car under the age of 16, leading to Shook's arrest on charges of aggravated driving while intoxicated and endangering the welfare of a child. It was also revealed that Shook was on bail from a previous arrest, and that she had outstanding warrants for failing to appear in court to face charges for driving after her license was suspended. She was released on \$1,000 cash bail and is scheduled to appear in Lebanon District Court on March 28.

And in even more crime news, over in Canaan, a months-long investigation into an alleged sexual assault report against a 28-year-old woman with disabilities has led to her caretaker. According to Canaan police, 66-year-old David James Devost of White River Junction, Vermont, was arrested earlier this month on one count of sexual assault against the woman. The charge is a Class A misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in prison and a fine of up to \$2,000 dollars in New Hampshire. Police say the woman - who they chose not to identify - has a severe developmental disability, and that Devost was trusted as a care provider for the victim. Devost was released on cash bail and is scheduled to be arraigned April 4 in Lebanon District Court. Police say the investigation into the allegations remains ongoing, and that anyone with information regarding the case is asked to contact the Canaan Police Department at 603-523-7784.

YCN News: an update in the damage to the Cornish Covered Bridge, as the driver didn't even know he hit it. Details when we come back.

Now yet another update in a top story from last week, as it has been revealed that the bus driver who hit a covered bridge in Cornish didn't actually know he had damaged it and only later found out. According to the superintendent of the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union, school bus driver Allan Henderson did not know he had hit the Dingleton Hill Covered Bridge on February 19th while transporting the Otter Valley girls basketball team to Windsor, but the next morning, he found a dent on the top of his bus as well as a missing amber strobe light. He then notified a supervisor who subsequently notified the Supervisory Union. They contacted Cornish Police after seeing the news story on Monday and police are now considering charging Henderson for conduct after an accident, over-height vehicle, and over-weight vehicle. Police say the bridge height and weight limits are clearly posted and the bus should not have attempted to cross it. The Supervisory Union has since taken responsibility for the accident

Across and up the river now in White River Junction, the Upper Valley Aquatic Center is hoping to expand their facility and is currently awaiting a permit to do so. *The Valley News* reports that the Aquatic Center is looking to expand in the form of an 8000 square foot addition that would cost in between 3 and 4 million dollars. The main purpose of the expansion would be to enlarge the size of the locker rooms, which are allegedly too small in their current state, and the addition of more space would allow the facility to hire more employees. Yesterday, in a release, officials from the Aquatic Center stated that the plan is the result of feedback from members and guests and say that there will be no impact on members in the form of additional fees. The expansion plan was approved by the Select board unanimously on February 16th but is currently awaiting results from the permitting process. A permit for the new expansion will go through Act 250, which covers large developments in the Vermont, such as the proposed Quechee Highlands project further north in Quechee.

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Well as we told you in yesterday's newscast and as you've no doubt seen if you've gone on Facebook or even on the Internet at all, today is Super Tuesday, where over ten states conduct primaries and caucuses. As we said yesterday, this is the day that could make or break a presidential candidate's run for office, as it offers the chance to win the most delegates out of any other day of the calendar year. Among the states voting today include Vermont, two weeks after its twin, New Hampshire, got to cast its ballots. For those of you who would like instantaneous coverage and are on a need-to-know basis for today's results, Secretary of State Jim Condos has announced that you can check the unofficial election results online, showing results from each town and statewide. City and town clerks in each Vermont town are required to post the results from their town online, and the site will refresh every ten minutes. If you'd like to stay in the know in the Green Mountain State tonight, check the URL on your screen, which should start showing results between 8 and 11 PM. If you haven't yet, get out and vote!

And lastly tonight, try to recall what you used to wanna be when you were a kid. A firefighter, astronaut, Olympic athlete, and how about a police officer? Well kids in Sunapee this past weekend got to live out their fantasies as they took part in Jr. Police

Officer Day, put on by the Sunapee Police Department and the Abbott Library. They learned how to solve a crime, how to fingerprint, and got a behind-the-scenes tour of the station. We spoke with Police Chief David Cahill about the event.

PKG

Afterwards, the kids got their photos taken in front of a police cruiser dressed in full uniform and also enjoyed a snack and mystery story at the Abbott Library. Sounds like a wonderful day for the Junior Officers and we wish them luck in their pursuit of justice.

Thursday, March 3rd. YCN News:

We begin tonight with an update on a story we first brought you last week, as a 17-year-old Claremont girl reported missing by her mother has since been found according to police. Claremont police told the *Eagle Times* yesterday that Carrie Holland was located Feb. 27 and returned to her family five days after having been reported missing. Police did not release further information on the case due to Holland's age. Holland was initially reported missing by her mother Feb. 22 and was believed to be within Claremont or Newport. It was not immediately known where the girl was located. Posts on social media sites like Facebook in regards to the case garnered hundreds of comments and shares, though most have since been removed. Besides local departments, the State of New Hampshire's Investigative Services Bureau often assists in missing person cases.

A Canaan, New Hampshire man was seriously injured yesterday afternoon in a snowmobile accident in Pittsburg, and officials are crediting a helmet for potentially saving his life. According to a press release from New Hampshire Fish and Game, 27-year-old Mitchell Davis sustained serious, but non-life threatening injuries after losing control of his machine and hitting several trees along Trail 140 shortly after 2:30 yesterday afternoon. Officials say Davis's sled accelerated after hitting a frozen object on the edge of the trail near River Road, sending the man into an area of dense trees at a high rate of speed. Authorities determined that a mechanical failure was the primary factor of the crash, and that Davis's helmet was likely a factor in him surviving the collision. Davis - who was said to be unconscious for several minutes after the collision - was transported to nearby Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital in Colebrook for treatment.

Turning to Vermont news now, a popular meeting spot for locals and tourists alike was destroyed yesterday afternoon in a large fire in Newfane. The Newfane Cafe and Creamery, located on Route 30, was reported on fire shortly before 3 p.m. yesterday afternoon, with the blaze being upgraded to a third alarm by 3:15. Authorities say both strong winds and the building's metal roofing made fighting the fire difficult, with nine departments in all eventually responding to the scene. Some departments remained on the scene after 7:30 last night. Portions of Route 30 near the creamery were shut down for several hours to allow first responders to come to and from the scene. The Newfane

Cafe and Creamery was a popular eatery offering everything from pastries to pizza, to coffee and beer. It was not immediately known if owners plan to rebuild. Authorities have not identified a cause of the fire, and say an investigation into the blaze remains ongoing. No injuries were reported.

Staying on that side of the river, Vermont utility company Green Mountain Power has announced it will implement a planned power outage this coming Sunday in order to complete finishing touches on the installation of a new substation within the town. But don't worry if you live in the area, chances are you'll miss it. According to Green Mountain Power, the outage will take place at about 4 a.m. Sunday morning, and will last all of five minutes. The new substation, located on Lantern Lane, is expected to increase the electric grid's reliability in the region, with twice the capacity of an existing substation further down the road. The substation is also believed to enable workers to quickly restore power during future outages. Green Mountain Power spokeswoman Dorothy Schnure said in the press release that the "project is about maintaining and improving reliability for the White River and surrounding communities." Officials said that if whether does not allow for Sunday's planned maintenance, workers will try again at the same time Sunday, March 13.

YCN News: Claremont's Moody Building is getting some repairs after a drunk driver slammed into the building in December. We'll be right back.

Well in education news now, the Hartford School Board is welcoming a new member to their ranks, having won over a current member appointed as a temporary fill-in. Yesterday in Hartford, a ballot count has granted a Hartford School Board seat to day care owner Nancy Russell over Russ North of Wilder, who was recently appointed as to fill a vacancy made by Paul Keane, who retired recently. No final counts of absentee ballots or write-in votes had been officially conducted when it was determined Russell had won, but she had earned 1,421 votes compared to North's 987. Russell, a day care owner, has a daughter who is a teacher within the Hartford School District and ran for the position playing off of her experience and professional financial skills that would aid in the position. Prior to winning the vote, Russell had established that she would boost the Board's communication with members of the public and she will take her seat at an organizational meeting later this month.

Claremont's Moody Building is finally being restored to its former glory after an accident in December that damaged some support columns. Yesterday, two historic balcony support columns were re-installed, replacing the temporary supports that were in place for the past two months. The columns were the originals from the initial construction of the building and were rebuilt because there were no other columns that could be found that would fit the size and look of the building. The mix-used Moody Building is over 120 years old and area residents have expressed their approval of the columns being repaired. Back in December of 2015, 55-year old Patrick Taylor of Hancock, New York

crashed his Jeep into the building after speeding down Pleasant Street and going through Opera House Square, all while under the influence. Taylor had fled on foot but was apprehended by officers and was indicted in January for reckless conduct and criminal mischief. Along with repairing the columns, work was also done on the neighboring Farro Deli and the sidewalk, while the balcony itself is scheduled to be repaired in the future.

And now a story that will no doubt bring a smile to your face, as a dog found abandoned on railroad tracks last fall in Claremont, has been adopted from a local shelter and will leave for a new home this Friday. This certainly a story of hope, quite literally, as the dog's name is Hope and she was rescued in late October after being found close to death on railroad tracks in town. She was taken in by the Lost my Way Animal Shelter here in Claremont. A GoFundMe was set up to help fund Hope's recovery and just weeks after her rescue, Cathy Sullivan of the Lost My Way Shelter reported that her condition was improving at a steady rate. Just today, months after rescuing Hope, the shelter has announced that she is moving to a new home this Friday. Multiple announcements have been made via the shelter's Facebook and nearly 400 people have expressed their delight in Hope having a new home. She will be joining an Alaskan Husky and a cat friend at her new residence. The Lost My Way Shelter's work is far from over as there are other animals to adopt. You can check them out on Facebook if you'd like to help out a furry friend and give them a new woof, I mean roof, over their head.

And lastly tonight, continuing with our canine note, once a month in Andover, children have a chance to read to man's best friend. Who's a better listener than a dog? They don't complain, they don't talk over you, and with their big floppy ears, they catch every single word. Dee Ganley and her dog Flip travel to the Andover Library once a month so that children can schedule to "read to Flip", where they read a book or two to the furry friend. We caught up with Dee and asked her to reflect on the fun service she provides voluntarily.

PKG

Dee and Flip can also be found at the Salisbury Library and will be coming soon to the Tracy Library in New London.

Friday, March 4th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with a story that broke earlier today, as a bomb threat at Kearsarge Regional High School in Sutton forced an evacuation of all students and faculty and were all deemed safe.

This morning, a bomb threat was reported and the building was swiftly evacuated with the help of Sutton Police. The superintendent of the school Winfried Feneberg, spoke to YCN News on the scene.

SOT

State and Sutton Police have since deemed the school safe and allowed students to re-enter the building during the early afternoon.

Well a growing amount of students that have contracted head lice through unknown sources has prompted SAU 6 officials to revisit the school district's policy on the matter. Superintendent Middleton McGoodwin recommended the review during Wednesday night's school board meeting after having received several phone calls from concerned parents. Head lice are tiny insects that live - and lay eggs - on individual hairs near one's scalp. The lice are easily treatable, though, by using either over-the-counter or prescription medication. SAU 6 - comprised of schools in Claremont, Cornish and Unity - does currently have a policy regarding head lice, which consists of screenings, as well as management beginning on the day of diagnosis, according to the *Eagle Times*. A review on the district's current policy will begin next week, though at least one board member - chairman Richard Seaman - said Wednesday he recommended receiving guidance from the state as the issue is a far-stretching problem.

And now in another follow-up on a story we brought you earlier this week, as New Hampshire State Police are seeking help from anyone who may have witnessed a fiery crash on the southbound side of Interstate 89 on Tuesday. The fatal crash occurred shortly after 4 p.m. Tuesday afternoon, and so far troopers have only found one credible witness according to the *Valley News*. The newspaper reports that victim has still not been identified, as nothing at the charred scene allowed investigators to do so. Results of an autopsy are expected within the coming days, according to state police. The victim was the sole occupant of the vehicle, which crashed in median and forced the highway to be closed near Exit 16 for about 45 minutes. The vehicle had New York license plates. Investigators are working to recreate the scene with hopes of determining a cause of the crash, and are asking anyone who may have witnessed the accident to contact Trooper Janell Smith at 603-223-4381.

Across the river in Vermont, police in Brattleboro are investigating an assault and robbery that left a 49-year-old man suffering from serious injuries. According to Brattleboro Police, officers responded to a Canal Street motel shortly before 10 p.m. Tuesday night after receiving a call reporting an incident. Once on the scene, officers observed a 49-year-old male suffering from what they described as serious injuries. The man - whose policy has not yet been identified - was transported to nearby Brattleboro Memorial Hospital for treatment. Police Captain Mark Carignan told the *Brattleboro Reformer* that the case has been transferred to the department's detective division and that they are actively investigating several leads. Carignan said additional information, including anything related to a suspect, will be released as deemed appropriate. Authorities did not say why they are also investigating the incident as a robbery. Anyone with information regarding the incident is encouraged to contact Brattleboro police at 802-257-7950.

**YCN News: the Special Olympics are taking place in Woodstock this weekend!
We've got details when we come back.**

Now yet another update regarding a proposed \$23-million dollar justice center in Windham County, though this time officials are focusing in on a parcel of land in Rockingham along Route 5. The new location is a result of the decision to abandon plans to construct the facility at the Liberty Mill building in Bellows Falls, and takes into account concern from residents regarding its placement within the village. The new site - located within 3 miles of the original location - sits on 11.7 acres of land near Exit 6. Windham County Sheriff Keith Clark is already in the process of purchasing the land on behalf of the county according to an announcement posted on the sheriff department's website. Clark has also submitted a zoning application for the facility's construction, though both the Rockingham Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustments have also been considering a petition from residents that would prohibit such a facility from being built anywhere in Rockingham.

Staying in Vermont but in a lighter-hearted story, Woodstock is hosting the annual Winter Games conducted by Special Olympics Vermont. Several hundred athletes will travel from all over Vermont to compete in winter activities, including on-snow events at the Suicide Six ski area in South Pomfret. The Woodstock Inn will be lodging athletes and their families while they also help contribute to the event hosting. The public from all over the region and in the Twin States are invited to attend and there is absolutely no cost to do so. The opening ceremony kicked off tonight at 5:30 PM on the historic Green in downtown Woodstock. Each year, the athletic event is put on by the Woodstock Rotary Club and the Town and this year's event will receive a visit from Tim Shriver, the son of the founder of the Special Olympics, who started the nationwide event in the 1960s. This is the 9th consecutive year that the event has been held in Woodstock and those attending this year represent just a mere fraction of the 4.5 million athletes worldwide involved in Special Olympics.

Last night, over thirty residents from the town of New London turned out for a League of Women Voters town office candidate forum at Whipple Town Hall. Four candidates, those being John Wilson, Colin Campbell, Lyndsay Lund, and Phyllis Tilson are running for three seats for three year terms on the New London budget committee. Meanwhile, two New London residents, F. Augustus Seamans and Joseph Cardillo, are running for one seat for a one year term on the budget committee. In regards to other municipal seats within the town, Andy Padden, Annie Beck, Nancy Mahar, and Adrienne Neary are all vying for two seats as a Tracy Memorial Library Trustee. Each candidate for the above positions were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and tell the audience why they are running. After the introductory statements, audience members were given the opportunity to ask questions, to which the candidates answered. Voting for town offices in New London and many surrounding towns will take place on March 8, next Tuesday. The town of New London will hold its town meeting on March 9th.

And finally tonight for those who have a taste for treats, a local bakery in Andover New Hampshire finally has a physical location to call home. The Tarte Bakery, owned by Corrine Cline, has settled down on Route 11 just last month and is known for their colored macaroons, among other things. We speak with Cline on this big move.

PKG

Tarte Bakery is open Tuesday through Sunday from 7 AM to 3 PM each day.

Monday, March 7th. I'm Abby Peel, welcome to YCN News.

We begin tonight with the culmination of a lengthy effort in Cornish to more efficiently manage education costs, as residents voted over the weekend to officially withdraw from SAU 6 in favor of its own single-town district. More than 300 residents showed up for Saturday's voting, and approved the proposal by a better than 2-to-1 margin. SAU 6 currently incorporates the districts of Claremont, Unity and Cornish, though officials in Cornish have been mulling a withdrawal plan for at least two years. The Cornish School Board formed a withdrawal committee last year, and the committee's final plan of withdrawal was approved by the New Hampshire Board of Education just last month. Cornish's single-town district will take effect July 1, 2017, with the 2017-18 school year being its first in operation. Cornish officials plan to outsource superintendent duties from neighboring Plainfield to reduce costs. Cornish had been a member of SAU 6 since 1964.

Staying in Cornish, a Newport woman was arrested on multiple charges early Sunday morning when sparks flying up from the bottom of her vehicle alerted a nearby officer she was driving on just three tires. According to a press release, Cornish Police Chief Doug Hackett spotted the vehicle while on patrol along Route 12-A shortly before 1 a.m. Sunday morning. Hackett said he noticed sparks flying up from a bare rim on the 2004 Volkswagen Jetta, and immediately pulled the vehicle over. Upon making contact with the driver, Hackett arrested 20-year-old Samantha Clark-West on multiple charges including driving while intoxicated and reckless operation. As a minor, Clark-West received an additional charge of unlawful possession of alcohol, on top of citations for driving without a valid license and the misuse of plates. Clark-West was released on an undisclosed amount of bail and is scheduled to appear in Claremont District Court on March 14.

Shifting back to town meetings now, residents of Newport will take to the polls tomorrow to vote on a proposed \$17.6 million dollar school budget that could determine the fate of at least five of the district's teachers. Voters won't have to decide between any contested school board seats, though a decision to approve the school budget - over its default of \$17.2 million dollars - could prove tough enough. SAU 43 Superintendent Cindy Gallagher has said the difference between this year's proposal and the default budget - some \$318,000 dollars - could save the jobs of up to five teachers, after 19

positions had already been cut heading into the school year. Gallagher has also proposed the reconfiguration of grades among the district's school in order to help save costs, by moving fifth graders to Richards Elementary from Towle Elementary, and sixth graders to the middle school from Towle. Additionally, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten will move to Towle. A public hearing on that proposal will be held March 19.

Staying in the Sunshine Town, while residents of Newport won't be going to the polls to vote on a municipal budget until May, that didn't stop the town's Select board from hosting public hearings as I speak to further discuss its proposed budget and various other bonds. Board members will first discuss the \$9.42 million dollar budget proposal to be voted on later this year, followed by hearings on two bond proposals. The first bond is for \$407,000 to cover costs associated with engineering, land acquisition and replacement of the steel truss Oak Street Bridge. The second bond - for \$3 million dollars - would fund infrastructure repairs to First, Second, Third, Fourth and Knoll Streets. A final hearing will discuss the potential addition of \$5 more dollars to motor vehicle registrations in town to help pay for infrastructural improvements. Stay tuned to tomorrow night's broadcast for highlights from tonight's hearing as well as any proposed changes.

YCN News:

Welcome back to YCN News, I'm Abby Peel.

In what's become an all-too familiar story in recent months, a 24-year-old Canaan, New Hampshire man was arrested last week after a routine traffic stop revealed signs of drug use by the driver. According to a press release issued by Lebanon Police, Jonathon Reeder was arrested shortly after 2:30 on March 1 after he was pulled over along Plainfield Road in West Lebanon. During the course of the traffic stop, officers observed signs of drug use including paraphernalia visible on the passenger side floor. After a brief investigation, officer uncovered an undisclosed amount of heroin on Reeder, who was subsequently arrested on charges of possessing the narcotic - a Class B Felony. Reeder was released on \$2,500 personal recognizance bail and is scheduled to appear in Lebanon District Court on May 8.

Voters in Lebanon tomorrow will elect two city councilors and three school board members as well as decide the fate of a proposed \$40.3 million-dollar school budget during city-wide voting tomorrow. In Ward 3, Sarah Welsch and William Shoemaker, Jr. - two newcomers to city politics - are vying for the vacant city council seat left by Carol Dustin, while in Ward 2, Mark Louzier is challenging incumbent councilor Bruce Bronner for his seat. As for budgets, the proposed school budget comes as a slight increase to last year's, though voters are also being asked to approve new three-year teachers contracts expected to cost an estimated \$298,000 dollars. If everything is approved by voters, taxpayers would see an increase of 12 center per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Polls will be open tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., with Ward 1 residents voting at

the Kilton Public Library, Ward 2 at the United Methodist Church and Ward 3 at City Hall.

Residents here in Claremont will take to the polls as well tomorrow tasked with deciding on a proposed \$34.1 million-dollar school budget which includes a significant amount of funding toward increased background checks and additional security upgrades within the district's schools. Security upgrades would replace outdated school intercom systems, with background checks to be conducted by a private company. Despite an increase of about .25 percent from the district's current operating budget, a slight reduction in staff is anticipated according to SAU 6 Superintendent Middleton McGoodwin. The proposed budget would add approximately 11 cents to the city's current tax rate, while resorting to the default budget of \$34.4 million would add 54 cents per \$1,000 assessed property value. Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. with Wards I and II voting at the Claremont Middle School, and Ward III voting at the Disnard Elementary School.

Andrew Mihaly(Mi-Hay - lee), Athletic Director at Mount Royal Academy, is this year's recipient of the "Volunteer of the Year" Award for the Merrimack Basketball League, a league consisting of over 100 teams throughout the state. The Award was Voted on by the community of directors, coaches, and parents in the League,. MRA joined the Merrimack Basketball League just four years ago, and has had a great deal of success over that short span. YCN's Lynn Solomon caught up with Mihaly to ask him about the award, and the success that the schools sports program has enjoyed over the last few years

Tuesday, March 8th. I'm Abby Peel, welcome to YCN News.

We begin tonight with some potential good news snowmobilers and four-wheelers in Claremont as a nearly two-mile area of trail that connects the Arrowhead recreation area with a network of trails near Washington Street may reopen to riders. The New Hampshire Department of Transportation has submitted a four-page letter to the federal government recommending it approve a waiver submitted by the city to allow ATVs and other motorized vehicles to use the trail. Currently, the trail is not being used per United States Code that prevents motorized vehicles on land paid for by the federal government to construct a bicycle or pedestrian path. But safety officials say that while the former rail bed was paid for with federal funding, construction of a bike and walking path was not. The New Hampshire DOT recommended the Federal Highway Administration division grant conditional approval of the waiver for a two- to three- year trial period.

Well just days after Windham County Sheriff Keith Clark announced a potential new location for a \$23 million dollar pre-trial detention facility on 11.7-acres of land in Rockingham, community activist group Rockingham for Progress has vowed to fight the project. The group, you may remember, played a pivotal role in organizing against the prison's original location on the riverfront within the village of Bellows Falls. But despite

the group's pressure, Clark cited findings from a structural engineer that said the Paper Mill Road building was in "terrible shape" as a reason to find a new location. Clark announced last week that the county was in the process of purchasing the 11.7 acres of land outside the village along Route 5, and that if all goes to plan, the sale would be official by April. A Rockingham for Progress representative told the *Eagle Times* yesterday the group plans to continue pursuing a petition to the zoning board that would prohibit a prison from being built anywhere in Rockingham.

Crossing back into New Hampshire now, a proposed major expansion to the James W. Campion III Rink in Lebanon was met with major opposition from both zoning board members and residents during a public hearing last night. The Recreation Project and Improvement Society - which operates the Route 10 ice rink - was before the board to unveil plans of a 56,000-square foot addition that would almost triple the building's footprint, and expand the rink's parcel from 14 to 18.3 acres. Neighbors of the rink have accused the Recreation Project and Improvement Society for not living up to promises made when the building was originally constructed in 1987, including shielding nearby Gould Road homes from light and limiting operating hours at night to reduce sound. Neighbors say sound is even an issue when the facility is closed, however, as loud compressors run all night to keep the building cold. If approved, the expansion would include two additional ice rinks, adding parking and updated lobby and locker room space.

And now a sad story out of Marlboro, Vermont as a house fire yesterday afternoon on Auger Hole Road killed two women. According to state police, the Marlboro Fire Department responded to 5113 Auger Hole Road shortly before 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon on reports of a residential fire. Once on the scene, crews were notified by a homeowner, 73-year-old Nancy Milligan, that her two daughters had not made it out of the residence. Firefighters entered the home, and found 41-year-old Laura Milligan, and 46-year-old Elizabeth Milligan, dead on the second floor. The cause of their death has not been determined pending the results of autopsies conducted by the Chief Medical Examiner's Office in Burlington. Officials say the fire does not appear suspicious in nature, but that its cause is still under investigation by both the Marlboro Fire Department and the Vermont State Police. The home was deemed a total loss.

YCN News:

Welcome back to YCN News, I'm Abby Peel.

Now for an interesting story out of Brattleboro as an antique trophy won by the 1922 Brattleboro High track team has been returned to the school thanks to the efforts of some proud alumni. According to the *Brattleboro Reformer*, Jay Meyer - a 1980 alumni of Brattleboro Union High School and member of the Facebook group "I grew up in Brattleboro" - saw a post online saying the trophy was at a Greenfield, Mass., antique shop. Meyer then coordinated with other alumni in the group who decided the trophy needed to be returned, and organized a trip to the Massachusetts town to recover the

trophy. Meyer said he drove to Greenfield on March 3, and purchased the historic cup-style trophy for \$200. Once in his possession, Meyer notified Brattleboro Union High School Principal Steven Perrin of the situation, and arranged to deliver the trophy to the school the following day. The trophy is now being displayed in the school's main entry way.

Staying in the Green Mountain State, a 31-year-old Athens, Vermont woman was killed over the weekend in a single-car accident on Brookline Road. According to Vermont State Police, troopers responded to the scene just south of the intersection of Miller Road shortly after 6:30 Sunday morning, to find a silver 2014 Subaru Impreza overturned in an embankment. Police say 31-year-old Jennifer Stamp was pronounced dead on the scene, and was not transported to a hospital. Police say roads were dry at the time of the accident, and that speed was likely a key factor in the crash. Police added that Stamp was not wearing a seatbelt at the time the vehicle overturned. The southbound side of Brookline Road was briefly closed Sunday morning while crews removed the vehicle. State Police say the cause of the accident remains under investigation, and that anyone who may have witnessed the crash should contact them at (802) 875-2112.

A White River Junction, Vermont man trying to make a statement about censorship is being criticized by his neighbors for flying the Confederate flag outside his Latham Works Lane home for all to see. The flag is owned by Kenny Rogers, who said it was a gift from his mother-in-law and that it does not represent any racist feelings harbored by himself and his family. Instead, Rogers argues, the flag - a symbol of the Civil War-era American South and its resistance to civil rights - is a symbol of free speech. Rogers's story has drawn attention from several media outlets, including the *Valley News*, who highlighted a meeting between Rogers and several concerned community members at his home this past Sunday with a lengthy article in today's paper. And while the controversial flag does remain flying above the man's Latham Works Lane property, the *Valley News* reports the meeting remained respectful throughout.

And finally as you most likely already know, residents across the Granite State are taking to the polls today, tasked with deciding on everything from school budgets to municipal budgets, to electing new city councilors and school-board members. Polls in most communities from Lebanon to Warner were open from 8 a.m. this morning to about 7 o'clock tonight, so results were not available by the time of this broadcast. There were several interesting issues up for vote today - including school-district withdrawals and job-saving school budgets, so stay tuned to tomorrow's broadcast for results from various communities throughout our region.

Wednesday, March 9th. YCN News:

Police over in Haverhill, New Hampshire are seeking the public's help in locating a juvenile reported missing at about 9 o'clock last night. According to a press release, Haverhill police are on the lookout for 14-year-old Emma "Alex" Lee Carabello, who was

last at the Olivarian School at around 6 p.m. last night. Emma is described as being approximately 5-feet tall and 100 pounds, with brown eyes and blue hair. She was last seen wearing a purple blouse with a pink jacket, black military-style boots and a beanie. Police have not said who reported the juvenile missing, only that the call came from the Olivarian School. Haverhill police are asking anyone with information into her whereabouts to contact them at 603-787-2222. YCN News will continue to keep you updated on this developing story.

A 30-year-old Lebanon woman was arrested yesterday for allegedly attempting to steal an entertainment system from a local Wal-Mart and striking an employee. According to Lebanon police, officers responded to the Wal-Mart in West Lebanon yesterday afternoon on a report of an uncooperative shoplifter. Upon arrival, officers made contact with loss prevention employees, who had detained 30-year-old Ashley McKinney for attempting to leave the store without paying for an entertainment system. According to a press release, the employees say McKinney struck one of them in an attempt to get away, but they were able to keep her detained until officers arrived. The Wal-Mart employee was not injured as a result of the incident. Police arrested the woman on charges of robbery - a Class B felony - and she was processed and released on \$2,500 personal recognizance bail. McKinney is scheduled to appear in Lebanon District Court on May 9.

Well with so many school districts in the granite state having approved or shot down budgets during yesterday's voting, officials over in Croydon are fighting a different kind of battle in Superior Court. The Croydon School District was back court today to argue the merits of its stance on sending students to nearby private schools beyond the fourth grade if parents choose. The district has come under fire for allowing four students to attend the private Newport Montessori School rather than a nearby public school. The New Hampshire Board of Education failed to obtain a preliminary injunction against the district to forbid the process, but Strafford County Superior Court Judge Brian Tucker did say in his December ruling that decision was not based on the merits of the law. Lawmakers in Concord were also expected to vote on House Bill 1637 today, which is a bill authored by local lawmakers that would allow districts to allow similar school choice decisions.

Students and faculty at Colby-Sawyer College in New London welcomed their President Elect yesterday during a brief ceremony on campus. Dr. Susan Stuebner is set to become the college's ninth president after its board of trustees unanimously approved her appointment earlier this year. Stuebner will replace outgoing president Thomas Galligan Jr., who announced back in September that he would not seek a third term after 10 years at the helm. Instead, Galligan has accepted a position of dean at the Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Stuebner, who will officially take over for Galligan and become the college's president July 1, comes to New London with more than two decades of higher education experience, and is currently serving as the executive vice president and chief operating officer at Allegheny College in Meadville,

Penn. Stuebner was recommended to the college's board of trustees by a 12-member search committee.

YCN News: the Brattleboro Select board is currently discussing the traffic lights in downtown. Details when we come back.

Big news out of Newport now as the town met to discuss the operating budget for next year. The voters have spoken and the proposed \$17.6 million budget for the school district was voted down by more than double the votes in favor. Yesterday saw Newport's Town Meeting and voters had a chance to vote on the budgets that had been in the works for months now, which has left the school district trying to think of a way to cut expenses while operating under the default budget of \$17.2 million. This reversion to the default budget means faculty positions and programs will need to be cut. The budget was defeated 643-270 and both a one-year teachers contract and a three-year contract for support staff were rejected as well. However, some articles did pass the vote, those being the withdrawal from SAU 43, making Newport its own single-school district, and a three-year tuition agreement with nearby Croydon for grades fro 5-12.

Red light, green light in downtown Brattleboro as the town's Select board is currently discussing the traffic lights in the busiest part of Vermont town. According to the Brattleboro Reformer, Milone & McBroom of Springfield, Massachusetts recently analyzed the efficiency of the traffic lights that have been working since 2009. Van Kcoyannakis of Milone & McBroom was one of the original developers of the lights and returned to examine how the lights have been functioning in regards to traffic flow. He presented his verdict to the board last night, explaining that while the sidewalks were being constructed in the downtown and the light was a flashing yellow instead of the standard red, yellow green, traffic flow appeared to be smoother. However, Kcoyannakis explained that although drivers appreciated the traffic flow during that time, pedestrians didn't so much, as there was no set time for them to cross. The Select board considered adaptive software to change the lights based on traffic patterns and daily conditions, but has since set that idea aside, based on the high cost of such an installment.

Still in Vermont but up the river, one local hospital has welcomed a new director of community health, promising much potential based on experience. President of Mount Ascutney HOspital in Windsor, Vermont Kevin Donovan has announced that Jill Lord, RN, has been appointed as the Hospital's Director of Community Health. Lord has been working with Mount Ascutney Hospital for more than a few years, filling the role of Chief Nursing Officer and as a press release says, "a community health champion." She has experience in leading initiatives to increase public health in Windsor, Woodstock, and other surrounding areas and Donovan says that, "we all recognize what an incredible resource and asset we have in Jill." Just last year, she was given named the Vermont Medical Society's Citizen of the Year for her efforts on behalf of the community and

received a similar award four years prior in 2011. Lord will also take leadership of Volunteers in Action, Prevention Partnership, Complementary Medicine, and school health programs.

And finally tonight, here in Claremont, Congresswoman Ann Kuster visited the city today to help promote travel and commerce with Canada, thus enhancing business opportunities for Granite State businesses. At 3 PM, Representative Kuster visited the Claremont Community Center on 152 South Street to discuss the "Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act", which is a bipartisan piece of legislation. Kuster was joined at the press conference by Mayor Charlene Lovett, City Manager Guy Santagate, Amtrak representatives, representatives from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, and local business leaders who could benefit from the bill. Kuster's main points focused on that by expediting travel processes between the U.S. and Canada, this bill will increase trade opportunities for local businesses and provide a boost to New Hampshire's tourism industry – the second largest industry in the state. Additionally, this bill will enhance our national security procedures along the Northern border.

YCN News was there at the press conference and we will have a much closer look during tomorrow night's news.

Thursday, March 10th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with an update on our top story from yesterday as authorities are now calling a missing 14-year-old Haverhill, New Hampshire girl an endangered runaway. Police say 14-year-old Emma Lee Caraballo - who goes by Alex Lee - was last seen at around 2 p.m. Tuesday afternoon at the Oliverian School in Pike, wearing a gray and lavender North Face parka, a beanie, and black combat boots. She is described as being about 5-feet, two-inches tall, 105 pounds, and has black hair with blue and purple highlights and a lip ring. The search is being conducted by New Hampshire State Police, Fish and Game officials, the Grafton County Sheriff's Office, the Haverhill Police Department, New England K-9 Search and Rescue, and various volunteers. Authorities did not disclose what caused them to classify Emma as an endangered runaway. Anyone with information into Emma's whereabouts is encouraged to contact the Grafton County Sheriff's Department at 603-787-2111 or local law enforcement.

Over in Vermont, state police arrested a 39-year-old Connecticut man Tuesday evening on charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and cruelty to a child. According to Vermont State Police, troopers conducted a traffic stop on Route 5 in Rockingham shortly after 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday for a vehicle that had been traveling more than 20 mph over the posted speed limit on nearby Interstate 91. After a brief investigation, troopers arrested the driver - 39-year-old Jonathan Burdick of New London, Connecticut - after it was learned he was under the influence of alcohol. Burdick was traveling with his 8-year-old daughter in the passenger seat, and a search of the vehicle later recovered 15 grams of marijuana and several containers of alcohol. Burdick was

processed at the Rockingham State Police Barracks and released with a criminal citation to appear in Windham County Superior Court on March 22.

Now news out of Dartmouth College as its board of trustees voted this week to approve a 3.8 percent increase in the tuition of undergraduate students, making it a little more costly for those hoping to earn that Ivy League degree. College officials announced the vote in a press release, saying the annual bill - including tuition, room, and board - is now up to slightly more than \$66,000 dollars for the 2016-17 school year. The new rate will apply to Dartmouth undergraduate students and students at the Thayer School of Engineering. According to the news website Dartblog, the college has tried to keep tuition increases below the rate of inflation to minimize impact. Dartmouth spokeswoman Diana Lawrence told the *Valley News* yesterday that the college "remains committed to slowing the growth of the cost of a Dartmouth education." For families whose annual income does not exceed \$100,000 dollars, however, Dartmouth says accepted students will receive free tuition with no loans.

Staying in the Granite State, residents of Enfield will have to wait a little longer to find out who won its contested Select board race, as a difference of just three votes between a pair of candidates has prompted a recount. Town Clerk Carolee Eisner called for the recount shortly after ballots were initially counted Tuesday night, due to the tight margin between candidates. As it stood initially, Meredith Smith's 291 votes stood slightly ahead of Daniel Kiley with 288. Smith is a retired college professor, while Kiley is a former accountant and Planning Board member. According to the *Valley News*, both individuals ran as candidates who would be weary of increases to the town's budget and tax rates. The recount is scheduled to take place next Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Whitney Hall. YCN News will be sure to update this story with the results of Tuesday's recount.

YCN News: we'll take a look at some Town Meeting results from some towns in the Lake Sunapee region. We'll be right back.

Many Kearsarge and Lake Sunapee area town held their annual town meetings last night with proposals for new buildings, building renovations, and solar panels on the docket at the town meetings. More than 300 Newbury residents travelled to the Spruce Lodge at Mt. Sunapee Resort to voice their opinions and vote on the town budget as well as a \$4 million bond to build a new police and fire station in town. The bond vote for the new safety service building was voted down but the town budget passed. In Bradford, residents filled the gym at the Bradford Elementary School to discuss and vote on various town articles, including a bond to raise 1.8 million dollars to renovate the Bradford Town Hall. After much discussion on the bond, voters in Bradford voted no and the Town Hall renovation was left in its tracks. In Warner, where attendance was also high for the town meeting, voters turned down a proposed municipal solar project to generate electricity for the town but voters did pass putting \$100,000 into a capital

reserve fund for a new fire station. Sutton and New London both sailed through their town meetings, passing all articles on their perspective warrants.

Speaking of New London's Town Meeting, let us now take a closer look. The meeting was moderated by Town Moderator W. Michael Todd and a special moment was given to honor the men and women who have served in all wars and conflicts from WWII until present day. A tribute was given to former Town Moderator Lloyd Littlefield who passed away recently. Nancy Rollins, Chair of the Select board, acknowledged the town's volunteers and Peter Bianchi, who is retiring this year, was acknowledged as well. Overall, 710 voters turned out to vote for the various items that required voting, including the municipal elections. Voters appointed Colin Campbell, Lyndsay Lund, and Phyllis Tilson Piotrow to three-year positions to the Budget Committee and gave Joe Cardillo a one-year term on the Committee. Andy Padden and Annie Beck were appointed by vote as library trustees. We caught up with New London residents and owners of McKenna's Restaurant, Tracy and John McKenna, and had them reflect on the town meeting and what it means to them.

SOT

All five zoning amendments passed without a problem and voters also cast private ballots for proposed articles, which passed.

Over in nearby Wilmot now, voters cast their ballots for municipal elections, prior to tonight's Town Meeting. On Tuesday, nearly 300 residents cast their votes between 8 AM and 7 PM at the Town Hall for necessary town officer elections and an article to amend the Wilmot Planning and Zoning Ordinance. There wasn't much competition in regards to town officer elections, as only position, that being a three-year term Selectman spot. Between Gary Palumbo and Nicholas Brodich, the latter was appointed to the position by exactly 70 more votes. Of note is the new Town Moderator, Charles W. Thompson as well as Treasurer Lynda Cioffi, who each received around 290 votes. In addition, by nearly double the voters, voters said no to the proposed Zoning Ordinance in regards to heavy industry and allowing a facility to install an above ground fuel storage tank with a capacity of 10,000 gallons or more. Wilmot's Town Meeting was scheduled to take place tonight at 7 PM for roughly two hours. It's taking place at the Wilmot Town Hall located on 9 North Wilmot Road and voters will voice opinions and cast their votes on the budgets and various articles for 2016.

And finally tonight, as we teased yesterday, Congresswoman Ann Kuster visited Claremont to discuss expediting travel and business from Canada to benefit the Granite State. She stopped in at the Claremont Community Center at 3 PM to discuss "Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act", with the assistance of Mayor Charlene Lovett, City Manager Guy Santage, Amtrak representatives, and representatives from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. This bipartisan legislation would attempt to bolster business and tourism in the Granite State, which

already benefits greatly from tourism, and would ease travel and commerce between the US and Canada. We caught up with Kuster afterwards.

SOT

Kuster's visit yesterday acted as a precursor to a meeting that took place today between President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and Mrs. Sophie Gregoire Trudeau at the White House. The meeting facilitated legislation that would allow pre-clearance for Canadian residents who wish to travel to the US.

Friday, March 11th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with a sad update on a story we've been covering the past couple of days as a 14-year-old Haverhill girl reported missing on Tuesday has been found dead. Authorities say Emma Lee Caraballo was found dead at some point yesterday in the village of Pike - which is located within the town of Haverhill. Police said in a press release that while they are investigating the circumstances of the teen's death, it is not being considered suspicious. Caraballo was first reported missing Tuesday evening after having last been seen at the Oliverian School - known for providing therapy and support services to its students - at about 2 p.m. On Wednesday, authorities called the teen an "endangered runaway" and were actively seeking help from the public in locating her. Over the course of three days, officers from the Grafton County Sheriff's Department, Haverhill police, State police, Fish and Game Department, New England K-9 Search and Rescue, and numerous volunteer participated in the search.

And now an interesting story out of Warner, New Hampshire as multiple break-ins at a local woman's home has been linked to New Jersey man arrested on unrelated charges. According to Warner police, Rose Forsey - who's lived at her Cemetery Road home for 17 years - has reported several break-ins in recent years, prompting the woman to purchase surveillance equipment to keep watch of her property. When her home was broken into again last Thursday, surveillance footage caught a woman driving up to her house, and a man getting out and kicking down the front door. According to police, the video shows the couple return an hour later to break into the home again in broad daylight. Police did not say whether the footage played a role in the New Jersey arrest, only saying that the unidentified man was processed on firearm charges, and that some of Forsey's things were found inside his car. Warner police say their investigation remains ongoing.

Well right here in Claremont, city officials have begun accepting bids for the installation of 1,000 LED light bulbs inside city street lamps in an effort to reduce energy consumption and cut costs. The city currently uses about 1,000 high-pressure sodium bulbs in each street light, which were installed some six years ago to replace even less efficient mercury bulbs. According to the Eagle Times, Claremont's streetlights are owned by Eversource - formerly known as Public Service of New Hampshire - though

utility costs are billed to the city. LED lights - which use light-emitting diodes as its source of light - are said to have a much longer lifespan than sodium bulbs, lasting between 20 and 25 years. The Claremont Public Works Department will be responsible for sorting through the bids to furnish and install the bulbs, and is considering phasing installation over the course of two years. Bids are due to Public Works office manager Norma Limoges by March 21.

Now turning to town meetings, voters in New London overwhelmingly passed a proposed \$7.08 million dollar operating budget last night, as well a bond for nearly half-a-million dollars for various projects within the town. The \$7 million dollar budget comes at an increase of \$260,000 dollars from last year's budget, which - including the approval of all other spending articles - will lead to an increase of 30 cents per \$1,000 dollars of assessed property value. As for other spending articles, the bulk went toward a \$460,000 dollar bond to replace a red-listed culvert on Brookside Drive, construct a new sand and salt shed, and close four discontinued sewer lagoons within the town. That bond was met with significant approval, with 230 of 234 voters approving the spending. Likewise, residents easily approved another \$250,000 of spending from a capital reserve fund to purchase 45 acres along Pleasant Street to help protect the Pleasant Lake watershed and augment the town's trail system.

YCN News: the Hartford School District is welcoming in two new principals as the board approves their hiring. Details when we come back.

Last night at Colby-Sawyer College in New London, residents and students had a chance to learn more about Islam as a religion, directly from the source. Imam Basheer Bilaal from the Greater Lowell Islamic Society spoke to a large crowd about the world's second largest religion at the Ivey Science Center on the campus of Colby-Sawyer College.

SOT

Bilaal, who has roots in Turkey and has studied in Damascus, talked about the meaning of the word Islam, including peace, the six beliefs, profits, and the angles of Islam. Bilaal then took questions from Professor Eric Boyer, The Rev. Sara Marean, Iraj Khaliqi, Aarne Vesilind, Greg Bruss, Omar Hajajra, and general members of the audience. Those in attendance posed questions about women and their place and role in the Islamic religion, why violence is associated with Islam, and the meaning of sharia law. At the end of the discussion, Imam Basheer Bilaal offered a prayer to all in attendance. The event was sponsored by the Kearsarge Interfaith Fellowship, Colby Sawyer College and Adventures in Learning.

In education news now, the Hartford School District is welcoming two familiar faces as principals within two of the District's schools. The Hartford School Board recently

approved the hiring of Nelson Fogg and Tristan Upson, who will both take the principal positions at the Hartford High School and the Hartford Memorial Middle School respectively. Both candidates are not new to the school district and are currently in positions within their respective schools, as Fogg is an English teacher at the Middle School and Upson is the High School's assistant principal. Both of these hirings come after Joseph Collea and John Grant announced their retirements earlier this year, leaving their principal positions at the two schools at the end of this school year. Fogg stood out among 10 candidates for the position and wound up being the only finalist, making for an uncontested vote for the School Board. Meanwhile, Upson was one of two finalists, competing against Claremont Middle School Principal Paulette Fitzgerald. The two women were narrowed down from what were originally ten total candidates. Both Fogg and Upson will take office at the start of the 2016 school year this fall.

Well this week has certainly been saturated with talk of town meetings and voting for town officials, these next two stories are no different. First up, in Brattleboro, a recount of the votes for a spot on the Select board has flipped the results, meaning the candidate who came in second the first time around actually won, following a recount. Results were counted yesterday between candidates Dick DeGray and Avery Schwenk, tallying up with 1,505 for Schwenk and 1,504 for DeGray, leading to a close finish only one vote apart. However, having lost by the smallest margin possible, DeGray requested a recount at the behest of the Board of Civil Authority. The initial votes had been counted with a machine, and when the Board of Civil Authority recounted by hand, the results turned out a little different. DeGray came up with 1,505 votes and Schwenk pulled 1,497 votes, thus flipping the results by a larger margin of eight, more than originally counted. DeGray has experience on the Brattleboro Select board, having formerly been a member, and will now return to the board following the recount. Schwenk was a newcomer to the position and is known for his business, the Hermit Thrush Brewery on High Street.

And finally tonight, following up on a story we brought you yesterday, the residents and voters of Wilmot New Hampshire met last night during their annual town meeting. Having voted for public officials on Tuesday, last night saw voting on other matters within town. To quickly wrap up Tuesday's voting results for you, 316 voters from across the town cast ballots from 8 AM to 7 PM, defeating all three Zoning Ordinance Amendments and both electing and re-electing members to municipal positions, including town moderator and Select board. Last night, about 75 town residents attended the meeting at the Wilmot Town Hall and 24 Articles were passed with little deliberation, including the town budget of nearly 1.4 million dollars. We caught up Ann Davis, a Wilmot resident, and asked her to reflect on the significance of town meeting.

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The meeting was moderated by Chuck Thompson, who also introduced Wilmot's new Chief of Police, David Zuger.

Monday, March 14th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with an eerily familiar story to one we brought you late last week as a Connecticut man was arrested in Ludlow over the weekend on charges of driving under the influence and cruelty to a child. Police say 53-year-old David Besterfield, of Fairfield, Connecticut, was stopped on Route 103 in Ludlow shortly after 10:30 p.m. Saturday night, where it was immediately determined he was under the influence of alcohol. Police also observed that Besterfield's 8-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter were passengers in the vehicle. Police arrested the man on charges of driving under the influence and cruelty to a child, and he was released on a criminal citation to appear in Windsor Superior Court on March 29. Last Tuesday, a 39-year-old New London, Connecticut man was arrested on similar charges in Rockingham while driving with his 8-year-old daughter in the vehicle.

Well three years to the month since the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center opened to the public, city officials are looking into ways to alleviate the facility's parking problems by adding additional spaces. The issue was initially brought up at the Feb. 23 city council meeting when Parks and Recreation Director Mark Brislin said a lack of adequate parking was one reason people were telling him they weren't renewing their annual memberships. Outgoing City Manager Guy Santagate touched on the issue again during last Wednesday's council meeting, saying officials have been looking into several options for adding additional parking, including spaces behind the nearby Sugar River Valley Technical Center where some trees were recently taken down. Brislin cited during his presentation to the council that while annual memberships have declined slightly in the past year, day passes have increased from 362 in February and March of 2015, to 423 during that same two-month span so far this year.

Up in Lebanon, public works crews have asked city councilors for additional funds to go toward a lengthy infrastructural project to sewer lines located under Interstate 89 near Exit 18. Public works officials are requesting an additional \$1.7 million dollars to restart work on the project that will increase the capacity of the sewer main that serves the Route 120 corridor. If approved, the additional spending would become the second supplemental appropriation for the project, bringing its total cost to the city up to \$6.5 million dollars. If the project isn't completed, however, other commercial projects along Route 120 will be forced to be delayed. The project would require lengthy delays in the area near Exit 18, where Department of Transportation officials estimate an approximate 35,000 vehicles travel daily. Councilors voted 8-to-1 in favor of hosting a public hearing to discuss the matter. The hearing is scheduled to take place April 6 at 7 p.m. at the City Hall.

Crossing back into Vermont, a Westminster volunteer firefighter was sentenced late last week after having pleaded guilty to charges of possessing child pornography. According to court documents, 32-year-old Matthew Cook pleaded guilty to one felony count and three misdemeanor counts of possession of child pornography, and received a suspended sentence of three to 10 years in prison. Cook will instead be placed on

probation for the next 10 years. Cook was arrested on the charges back in May after a lengthy investigation by the Burlington Police Department, the Vermont Attorney General's Office, the Vermont State Police and Vermont's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Cook will be subject to special conditions as part of his probation designed for sex offenders that require him to successfully complete sex offender treatment and limit his access to the internet and to children under the age of 16. He will also be required to register as a sex offender.

YCN News: at Brattleboro's town meeting, the police station has been approved to move to another location on Black Mountain Road. Details coming up.

Well continuing with our town meeting reports from last week, Croydon voters have finally approved the withdrawal from SAU 43. In a move that has been in the works for many months now, voters on Saturday during the floor portion of Croydon's Town Meeting passed the withdrawal plan with unanimous votes. Last week, Newport, who shares SAU 43 with Croydon, also voted to withdraw, which will subsequently dissolve the school administrative unit. *The Valley News* reports that around 50 residents attended Saturday's meeting, all of which voted in favor of the secession. According to plans and estimates that were made prior to the vote, Croydon could potentially save between \$80,000-\$90,000 a year on its own. Meanwhile, the voters also passed the town and school budgets, which were modified only slightly from their original proposed form. The school budget received a slim cut of \$3,300 from the proposed budget of roughly \$1.3 million, before passing.

And in more town meeting news, this time out of Southern Vermont in Brattleboro, after months of planning spanning far back into 2015, the police station will indeed be moving to a new location. By a vote of 111 to 27, the Town Meeting Representatives approved the plan on Saturday to move the police department to Black Mountain Road as well as to begin renovations on the fire station at Central Station on Elliot Street. Prior to the vote, town officials held multiple informational meetings to discuss the renovation and the move to the new site which is the current location of the Brattleboro Reformer newspaper. The plans to upgrade both fire and police facilities were not a new goal and have been in discussion for decades now and was even hindered in 2012 when voters rejected the 2015 budget that would allow for such upgrades. Some residents who attended the meeting expressed concern that moving the police out of the downtown would make it less accessible but most were in favor of the move, saying that the town's officers deserved a new place to call their own.

Further north in Vermont now at the local mountain, Mount Ascutney, the public are being asked to offer their input on a new management plan of the Mount Ascutney Park. The 20 year plan for the 3,100-acre state park would make changes to bike trails, parking lots, protocols for managing invasive species, and protecting natural areas. The plan had been delayed due to a number of other projects but this turned out to be a

positive thing as the controversial areas of the plan were able to be worked out with more time being available. Once the bike trail portion of the plan are complete, they will connect to a total of 35 miles of mountain bike trails in the state park. This plan would also make changes as to how the two endangered species, timber rattlesnakes and peregrine falcons, are managed and to find out the number of these species currently living in the area. The Mount Ascutney State Park was purchased back in 1935 by the State of Vermont and is open every year from May to October, offering a road to the summit to take in the surrounding area.

And finally tonight, in Woodstock, in what appeared to be an empty ballot, there are now two candidates running for one spot as a three-year term trustee for the Vermont village. Last month, when the ballot was first presented, there appeared to be no interested in the position and the ballot remained empty. However, two local business owners have since expressed interest in holding the three-year position, hoping to be written in during tomorrow's annual trustees meeting. 39-year old Cary Agin, an optician who owns Eyes on Elm, views the seat as a learning opportunity and says that it will allow him to learn more about the town he lives in. 44-year old Michael Malik, who owns Woodstock Chiropractic and Functional Medicine, has also expressed interest and is running to help the town's business economy, which is currently struggling. Both candidates missed the February 8th deadline to file petitions to appear on the ballot and are instead spreading word of mouth to appear as write-ins tomorrow.

Tuesday, March 15th. YCN News:

One of Claremont's largest employers is set to more than double the size of its facility on Maple Avenue as part of a \$4-million dollar expansion project. National Field Representatives - a mortgage servicing company located in Claremont and Florida - is in the process of purchasing two abutting properties to its 136 Maple Avenue headquarters, with those deals expected to close within the next several weeks, according to the *Eagle Times*. One property is Gary's Claremont Tire and Auto - which closed last year - located across the street from NFR, and the other is the Claremont Savings Bank that sits right next door. Plans for the expansion will increase the company's current 14,500-square-foot foot print by an additional 20,000 square feet, and add additional parking across the street. NFR employs about 200 people in Claremont - and an additional 50 at its Florida location - and says the expansion will lead to additional jobs in the city, though they have not given an estimation as to how many.

Turning to Upper Valley news now, officials at Dartmouth-Hitchcock received some welcomed news last night as the Lebanon Planning Board easily approved plans for a new palliative care facility to be built on its campus. Plans for the \$20-million dollar facility were originally announced by Dartmouth-Hitchcock officials back in 2014 after having received a \$10-million dollar gift. The 28,000-plus square foot facility was initially going to be constructed on land owned by Dartmouth College, but after several adaptations, officials have since settled on hospital-owned land to be accessed off

Hitchcock Loop Road. The 12-bed facility is meant for patients with serious diseases needing curative treatments, but unlike hospice, are not considered by doctors to have fewer than six months to live. Dartmouth-Hitchcock plans to construct 44 parking spaces for the new facility, which is 22 fewer than the amount required by city zoning laws. But the board chose to reduce the requirement for the facility citing its campus already has sufficient parking.

Well it's been some time since we've last talked about this next story, but it's one that avid skiers and riders in the area, as well as local land owners, have undoubtedly not forgotten. Officials representing Mount Sunapee Resort will submit final plans tomorrow to the Commissioner of the Department of Resources and Economic Development on its controversial West Bowl expansion project that's been the cause of much debate over the past 12-plus months. A draft of the proposed expansion was presented to the advisory board last April, before a lengthy-public hearing on the proposal the following month - broadcast in its entirety on YCN - highlighted a clear divide among members of the community. Those against the expansion cite sensitive environmental areas and increased taxes, while those for the project say it would help the resort remain competitive, and boost the regional economy. The plans will be submitted at the Newbury Town Offices at 10 a.m.

And now an interesting story out of Bellows Falls, Vermont as officials are investigating the circumstances that led to a stolen truck being deserted in the village. According to police, officers first discovered a red Chevy pickup truck parked behind an outbuilding by the Tomb on Route 121 shortly after 7:30 Sunday morning. Officers checked the area for signs of the driver, and after finding nothing, called for the vehicle to be towed. Some eight hours later, New Hampshire State Police issued a "be on the lookout" alert for a stolen vehicle from Surry with a matching description and plates to the red Chevy found in Bellows Falls. Officers notified New Hampshire State Police of the situation and the alert was canceled. Bellows Falls Police are asking anyone with information as to the operator of the vehicle, or anyone who may have seen the vehicle, to contact them at 802-463-1234.

YCN News: Springfield Hospital is ramping up its security measures to keep patients and staff safer. Details when come back.

Well as we touched on yesterday, winter reminded us that it is still not spring, the first day being March 20th, with some wintry mix conditions yesterday. In Sunapee, three hundred and ninety seven Eversource customers lost their power yesterday afternoon when a red pickup truck driven by Lois Burrington of Croydon slid on 103B and slammed into a power pole breaking it in two. The accident occurred at about 1:50 in the afternoon and was caused by the slippery conditions after a snowy morning, which turned to some freezing rain, and then regular rain. Because the power lines had fallen onto the roadway itself, Sunapee police and fire department responded to the scene

and closed the road between Stage Coach Road and Hell's Corner Road, to keep commuters safe. The driver, Burrington, was not hurt in the crash. Eversource worked on restoring power all afternoon and into early this morning before power was restored and Route 103B was reopened.

Down and across the river in Springfield, Vermont now, the Springfield Hospital is ramping up its security for patients and staff alike in a new safety policy. In a new procedure that became effective just yesterday, the Emergency Department is now a locked area, requiring access stickers for family members and visitors. Any family members or visitors who wish to use the cafeteria are free to do so but must use a secured entrance and won't be able to access the eatery once it closes, being restricted to the Emergency Department area. If you're planning to visit the hospital any time from now on, you're asked to always enter through the Main Entrance, and from there, receive instructions from staff regarding identification and access. Jan Sherer, Chief of Patient Care Services, says that, "Springfield Hospital takes the safety of patients, visitors, and staff very seriously." The hospital is part of a network of seven federally-qualified community health center sites.

Memories of Hurricane Irene are still fresh in most Vermonters' minds, despite happening 5 years ago, and Norwich is still trying to recover. Currently, they are awaiting word from Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, in regards to three different projects in town, no longer including the town pool. In January of this year, Norwich received an unexpected word that an application for FEMA funding was due on January 15th and town officials scrambled to put together an application, which they were told may have been too late. Just last week, the confusion continued as the Select board was unsure of the results of the application for three "alternate projects" that were created when the town failed to get a permit from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to rebuild the town's pool. Town officials are unsure of the application status and are awaiting further words from state and federal agencies. Many Vermont towns were ravaged by Irene in 2011 when the hurricane caused major flooding, destroyed bridges, and washed out roads.

With the spell of warm weather recently, it's no secret that spring is coming a little earlier this year, with everything that spring brings. Flowers start to bloom, trees start to bud, birds start to chirp, and let's not forget the mud. Oh mud season, how we've missed you, and with the considerable amount of dirt roads in our region, we get to experience the mud in all its glory. Mud season has indeed begun early with the recent temperatures and town road crews are actively trying to keep the roads in good shape. In Sunapee, the Sunapee Highway department laid down crushed stone on Mary's Road last Friday as an early thaw turned the dirt road to mud. The Sunapee Police Department issued a warning via email on Friday about driving on all dirt roads in Sunapee now that the ground is beginning to thaw out and to avoid driving on Mary's Road until repairs are made to the road. Further north in Plainfield, crews laid out fresh dirt and graded it over the especially muddy sections on the town's numerous dirt roads.

Here's our reminder to take it slow on those dirt roads to avoid any real damage to your vehicle.

Wednesday, March 16th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with an interesting story out of Vermont as the *Brattleboro Reformer* is reporting that a former local businessman is being investigated by several federal entities on accusations of running a Ponzi scheme. The newspaper reports that 30-year-old Homero Joshua Garza is being investigated by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Homeland Security, and the IRS in regards to claims be defrauded customers at several businesses he founded. These include Great Auk Wireless and Optima Computers in Brattleboro. According to a release from the Securities and Exchange Commission, who are asking a federal judge in Connecticut for an award of more than \$10 million dollars, "Most investors paid for a share of computing power that never existed." It went on to say that "returns paid to some investors came from proceeds generated from sales to other investors." YCN News will continue to keep you updated on this developing story.

Turning to Upper Valley news now, officials in Lebanon have successfully postponed a vote by the State senate that would name the new Route 4 bridge that spans from West Lebanon, New Hampshire to White River Junction, Vermont after Korean War veterans. According to the *Valley News*, Lebanon officials first caught wind of the proposal during a joint meeting in January with members of the city's state legislative delegation. The naming bill was sponsored by a Londonderry senator after he was approached by military veterans during an event, but officials in Lebanon argued that members of the community should have an opportunity to weigh in on a potential name. The \$10.7 million dollar bridge was opened in November, replacing the original structure built way back in 1936. The status of the bill is now listed as "interim study," meaning it will not be brought to vote this year. The Lebanon city council will discuss the bridge during tonight's meeting. The removal of the temporary bridge which spanned the river during the construction is also underway.

Crossing back into Vermont now, a 25-year-old Chester woman was arrested during a traffic stop last night after troopers say they discovered the presence of a regulated drug. According to Vermont State Police, troopers stopped a red Ford Focus for a speeding violation along Circle Drive in Chester shortly after 6:30 last night. After a brief investigation, the driver of the vehicle - 25-year-old Angela Martin - was discovered to be in the possession of several regulated prescription narcotics. Martin was arrested on charges of possessing a regulated drug and transported to the Rockingham State Police barracks. She was processed at the barracks and then issued a citation to appear in Windsor County Superior Criminal Court on April 26. Authorities are reminding motorists that driving under the influence - a charge Martin is not currently facing - applies to more than just alcohol, and can also include prescription drugs if not used as directed.

Staying in the Green Mountain state, a brief filed last week to the state's highest court could potentially prohibit the construction of a proposed development in Hartford if judges decide to overturn a previous ruling of the Superior Court. According to the *Valley News*, the Preservation Trust of Vermont and the Vermont Natural Resources Council filed an amicus brief Friday, asking the Vermont Supreme Court to overturn a February ruling by the state's second highest court that granted the project necessary permits. The Quechee Highlands, as the development is to be called, was proposed by travel company executive Scott Milne, with plans pinning the building off Interstate 89 near Exit 1. Milne has been trying to construct a 115,000-square foot office, retail and residential space in 10 buildings on 168-acres near the highway for some time. If Vermont's Supreme Court decides to hear the issue, arguments would likely not take place until summer according to the newspaper.

Thursday, March 17th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with news of a pending auction here in Claremont this weekend of the former Goodwin Community Center buildings and a historic farmhouse. City officials plan to auction off the properties this coming Saturday at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center, though they've acknowledged they aren't expecting to get much for the deteriorating properties. The nonprofit group Northern Heritage Mills showed interest in purchasing the farmhouse and its nearly 10 acres along Route 12A prior to it going to auction, but councilors determined during a closed-door-meeting last night that law prohibits the city from selling the property for private use. The Goodwin Community Center, on the other hand, was put up for sale twice by the city with no offers ever having been submitted. The buildings include an indoor pool and a gymnasium. The auction is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., and there are no minimum bids on the properties.

Turning to Upper Valley news now, the Lebanon Police Department has issued a warning in regards to a potentially lethal batch of heroin/fentanyl being distributed throughout the city. According to Lebanon police, the warning was issued yesterday in response to a pair of non-fatal calls involving the drug. Crews from the Lebanon police and fire departments responded to the calls yesterday, and said they used the drug Narcan in both instances to revive those involved. Police said they are unable to determine if the heroin/fentanyl was sold under a specific street name, or how the drug found its way into the area. Yesterday's warning is the second such warning about a potentially lethal batch of the drug in recent months, as Lebanon police made a similar announcement last fall. Police say they will release more information on their on-going investigation as it becomes available, and are asking anyone with knowledge of this particular batch to contact them at 603-448-1212.

And now an update on a story we brought you last week regarding town meeting voting over in Enfield, New Hampshire, as a recount on Tuesday has determined Meredith Smith to be the winner of the town's contested Select board seat. Town Clerk Carolee Eisner called for the recount shortly after ballots were initially counted on voting night,

with just three votes separating Smith from challenger Daniel Kiley. After Tuesday's recount, however, Smith was determined to have one additional vote, bringing her total to 292 in comparison to the 288 cast for Kiley. According to the *Valley News*, Smith is a retired college professor and businesswoman who volunteers with several committees in town, including the Mascoma Lake Public Access Task Force and the Old Home Days Committee. Like Kiley, Smith campaigned on a fiscally conservative platform aiming to prevent increased tax rates. She was sworn in by Eisener at the town hall last night.

And now for another update, this time on the lengthy litigation process between the Unity School District and architect Scott Vaughn in regards to the town's K-8 elementary school completed in 2014. According to the *Valley News*, Vaughn's attorneys filed a motion yesterday in U.S. District Court in Concord to extend a deadline for mediation from February 28th until September 1st. The district, on the other hand, has argued for an earlier deadline of May 6th. The district has asked for a settlement of \$1 million dollars from the architect, for circumstances leading to Vaughn's removal as construction manager of the project and its eventual completion two years later than originally anticipated. Meanwhile, Vaughn is counter-demanding that the district award him \$250,000 dollars for breaching a contract agreement. When all was said and done, the school cost a total of \$9 million dollars despite voters having only approved an allotment of \$4.7 million for the project.

YCN News: we'll take a look at this morning's presentation of the Mount Sunapee West Bowl Expansion plans.

This next segment will be a little bit different today. Instead of our usual variety of stories, we're bringing you a feature presentation of one the of the biggest stories of 2015 that even made it into the YCN Year in Review. The story is the controversial West Bowl Expansion at Mount Sunapee Resort in Newbury, which has garnered both overwhelming support and opposition from state officials, mountain representatives, and residents. This morning at 10 AM, at the Newbury Town Offices, Commissioner Rose of the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) presented the final plans for the expansion, set to go in front the Governor's Council on March 23rd, next Wednesday. Some smaller parts have yet to be approved, but as a whole, the plan sets up guidelines and logistics of the expansion. Members of the public attended this morning's presentation but were not allowed to comment, as it was not a public hearing, which had already taken place in 2015. Let's take a look.

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If approved, the plan would not start anytime soon, as an environmental study still needs to take place and concerned residents may continue to fight the development. As we have for all of 2015 and into this year, YCN will continue to follow this story as it

develops. If you'd like to see more before the March 23rd Governor and Council meeting, we'll be airing a half hour special of this morning's presentation so join us at 7:30 and 9:30 PM on Monday and 8:00 PM on Tuesday.

Friday, March 18th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with news out of Hartford, Vermont, as a \$1.1 million-dollar deficit in the school district's budget has forced the layoffs of five employees at the end of the school year. The *Valley News* reports that the five - including Hartford High School athletic director Joe James - have already received notice of their pending layoffs. The other affected individuals are said to be two full-time teachers, a part-time teacher, and a counselor. According to the newspaper, the athletic director position will be consolidated into the three remaining administrative positions at the high school. James was hired at the high school in 2000 as a basketball coach, and became a math teacher two years later. James told the *Valley News* that the district notified him of a potential teaching opening which he said he is considering. Of the district's \$1.1 million-dollar deficit, the five layoffs are estimated to save the district approximately \$400,000 dollars.

A 21-year-old Vermont man who faces charges on both sides of the Connecticut River pleaded guilty yesterday to a total of nine sexual assaulted-related charges in Grafton Superior Court. According to court documents, 21-year-old Christopher Hollis, of Newbury, Vermont pleaded guilty to eight felonies and a misdemeanor stemming from allegations that he engaged in non-consensual sex with an underage girl, and allegedly physically abused the girl while restraining her against her will. Hollis had originally faced 35 charges as a result of the New Hampshire incident before entering his plea. In Vermont, Hollis is due in Windsor Superior Court on May 3 for a pretrial conference in regards to a felonious sexual assault without consent charge. That charge is the result of a January 2014 incident in Sharon in which Hollis is accused of having unwanted sexual contact with the same minor female involved in the New Hampshire case. Hollis will be sentenced in New Hampshire on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in North Haverhill.

And now for another story that touches on both sides of the Connecticut River as a Charlestown, New Hampshire woman was arrested yesterday in Londonderry, Vermont on charges of driving under the influence. According to Vermont State Police, troopers responded to the intersection of Middletown Road and Parsons Lane in Londonderry shortly after 4 p.m. yesterday afternoon in response to a single car crash. Once on the scene, troopers observed a totaled red Subaru Forester off the roadway against a pair of trees. Troopers identified the driver of the vehicle to be 56-year old Cynthia Ehlenfeldt - of Charlestown - and determined after a brief investigation that she was under the influence of alcohol. Ehlenfeldt, who was not injured, was arrested for suspicion of DUI, and transported to the nearby Rockingham State Police Barracks for processing. Ehlenfeldt was later released with a citation to appear in Windham County Superior Criminal Court on April 5.

Turning to Upper Valley news now, Lebanon police confiscated a significant amount of illegal drugs and arrested a 34-year-old Massachusetts man accused of transporting them as the result of a lengthy investigation. According to Lebanon police, 34-year-old Sean Murphy, of Andover, Massachusetts, was arrested March 15 after allegedly driving from Massachusetts to Lebanon with cocaine, marijuana, and prescription narcotics in his vehicle. Murphy refused the services of a bail commission, and remained held at the Grafton County House of Corrections until the following day in which he was released on \$10,000 bail. A search warrant conducted on Murphy's vehicle uncovered numerous edible marijuana items packaged for sale, as well as several bags of smokeable marijuana. Murphy is due in Lebanon District Court on April 4 to face four counts of possession of controlled/narcotic drugs, and possession of controlled/narcotic drugs with intent to distribute. All charges are Class B felonies.

YCN News: heard about the winter storm this weekend? Yes you heard me correctly, snow on the first day of spring. Details when we come back.

Now an interesting development out of Brattleboro as a second recount for a seat on the Select board has named a former board member the winner, for a second time. Following a recount yesterday by the Board of Civil Authority, Dick DeGray has won a second time, but by only one vote. The first recount took place last week after the original results of newcomer Avery Schwenk gaining 1,506 votes compared to DeGray's 1,505. At DeGray's request, a recount by hand was held last week and the results flipped to give DeGray 1,505 votes and Schwenk 1,497 votes. In an identical action this week, Schwenk requested a recount of the recount, hoping to give him the position again. However, it did not work in his favor and last night's recount saw him with 1,505 votes and DeGray had 1,506, which is an identical flip of the original votes from town meeting. The recount last night was a long process, which took place during a meeting from 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM, roughly seven hours. Schwenk cited human error as the cause of the results flipping in the first recount. As it stands now, DeGray will hold the position for one year, but another recount may be on the horizon.

If you were outside at all yesterday after 3 PM, you may have noticed some very strong winds picking up. These winds damaged trees and scattered debris over area roadways, but it also caused a minor accident right here in Claremont. Last night, Claremont police, fire, and public works officials responded to the intersection of Route 120 and North Street at around 5 PM where strong spring winds had knocked over a traffic light pole right across from the Claremont welcome center. There was no effect

on traffic as the pole had fallen right into the median and the overhead lights above the intersection were still functional. By 5:45, crews had erected the pole upright once again and were fastening it back into place. A jersey barrier had been put into place on the median where the pole had fallen as to prevent any drivers from accidentally veering into the median and hitting the light. This minor incident and yesterday and today's wind is yet another reminder that spring is here, with the first day being this Sunday. Mud season has begun in multiple parts of our region, as you've no doubt noticed if you've driven any dirt roads recently.

Spring is just two days away which with all the warm temperatures we've had the last month you would expect the first day of spring to put an official end to what many are calling a disappointing winter. Well if you're a skier or snowboarder and were disappointed by the lack of snow, you're in luck! Sunday night there is the potential for a blizzard that could hit much of the east coast and New England. The Sunapee Highway Department has issued a warning to advise local New Hampshire residents to be prepared for wet and heavy snow. This could lead to poor driving conditions with the possibility for downed tree limbs and power outages. As usual, all paved road will be plowed and treated during the storm but if you live on a gravel road, the highway department warns that these roads will require additional time to clear as the gravel and dirt is still soft as they need to avoid any permanent damage. Sunapee would also like to remind you that the Winter Parking Ban is still in effect in town. If you're planning to drive late Sunday night or Monday, whether for work or otherwise, as always, take it slow.

And finally tonight, although some people may consider the first day of spring to be holiday, we'll look ahead to the next official holiday, Easter on March 27th. Mount Sunapee Resort in Newbury is holding a special Easter Sunrise service on the summit, offering commanding views of the surrounding region and a great way to start the day. Pastor David Keller of the South Newbury Union Church, explains the upcoming event.

PKG

General Manager of Mount Sunapee Resort, Jay Gamble, says that this is the first event of its kind on the mountain and again, those interested in going are asked to be at the lift between 6:00 and 6:25 AM on Sunday. Dress warm!

Monday, March 21st. YCN News:

We begin tonight with a unique story for this part of the country, but an interesting one nonetheless, as a small earthquake is confirmed to have shaken up parts of central New Hampshire this morning. The United States Geological Survey quickly confirmed reports of a 2.9 magnitude earthquake that struck at 9:18 this morning, and was centered approximately 4 miles northwest of Contoocook. Residents of nearby Sutton, Warner, New London and Sunapee also confirmed having felt the quake, though no

injuries or damage were initially reported. The quake's 2.9 rating on the Richter scale rates minor in the 1-through-10 indicator system, though it's said any rating above 2 can often be felt by people. According to statistics, New Hampshire averages just one earthquake per year, with a confirmed 67 quakes having hit the state since 1931. The Granite State's largest confirmed quake took place on January 19th, 1982, in Belknap County, and registered a 4.5 on the Richter scale.

Employees and patrons of the new Dunkin Donuts on South Main Street in Newport felt their own shake up Sunday morning, as a teenage girl learning to drive with her father allegedly crashed into the building with her vehicle. According to Newport police, an unlicensed 16-year-old girl struck the building shortly after 10 o'clock Sunday morning while driving a 2002 Chevrolet SUV accompanied by her father. Police say the vehicle crashed into a set of doors near the main entrance, and also caused structural damage to brickwork at the front of the building. The SUV - which sustained front-end damage and was able to be driven from the scene - also drove over a sidewalk east of South Main Street before crashing into the building. Police did not have an estimate into the amount of damage caused to the building, and said no charges are pending at this time. No injuries were reported.

Crossing into Vermont now, a Bellows Falls woman was arrested on drug charges over the weekend after a routine traffic stop led to the eventual search of her vehicle. According to Vermont State Police, troopers pulled over a vehicle driven by 27-year-old Sarah Barrett shortly before 6 p.m. Saturday evening for failing to use a turn signal while driving along Route 5. While speaking with Barrett and the other occupants of the vehicle, troopers say they observed drug paraphernalia located in plain site. Consent to search the vehicle was then given, according to the incident report, and troopers subsequently found 22 bags of heroin. Barrett - who was found to be on probation for a prior drug-related conviction - was arrested on charges of possession of heroin, and issued a citation for violating the conditions of her release. She is scheduled to appear in Windham Superior Court on April 19 to answer the charges.

Well residents of Newport and employees of the town's school district had a chance to discuss the district's future Saturday, just over a week after its proposed \$19 million-dollar operating budget was shot down by voters. More than 50 people gathered in the Sugar River Bank Community Room on Saturday morning to consider five options involving grade and staff realignment, and cast a vote toward their top choice. The school board has been faced with the prospect of cutting some \$1.7 million dollars in costs, which is the difference between the proposed budget rejected by voters and the \$17.2 million dollar default budget they were instead allocated. Of the five options considered, voters overwhelming supported one that would make no changes to the Towle Elementary School, house pre-K through grade 5 at the Richards School, and grades 6 through 8 at the middle school. The high school model would not change. A second public meeting was scheduled for tonight at the same location.

YCN News: Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business has received a hefty donation. Details when we come back.

Following up on a story we brought you last week, nine tax-deeded properties sold at a no reserve auction Saturday at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center, including the Goodwin Community Center and a historic farmhouse. Richard Sager of NH Tax Auctions held the auction on behalf of the city, which walked away with over \$231,000 when all was said and done. The Goodwin Community Center was bought by Springfield investor Darrell Lee for \$60,000. Lee also bought the East Street School in Springfield last year. He said his plans are to renovate the community center and potentially open a business in the gymnasium. The Cupola Farm at 54 Windsor Road was bought by Len Weldon on behalf of Northern Heritage Mills. The organization hopes to transform the property into an education center and museum to inspire young women to take part in STEM (that being Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) related fields. The combined appraised value of the properties sold was roughly 1.5 million and successful bidders have until April 22 to close on the properties.

In education news now out of the local Ivy League college, Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business has received a hefty gift that will help support leadership and entrepreneurship. Just last week, the school announced that the Sherman Fairchild Foundation has donated \$3 million to permanently endow the Paganucci Fellows program, a directive within the Tuck Center of Leadership. The endowment hopes to promote experiential learning and the study of how business can create positive social and financial values. The Paganucci Program was named in honor of Paul Paganucci of the Tuck class of 1954 who became the school's associate dean, helping students venture into the field and became leaders through experience. The Sherman Fairchild Foundation, who donated the 3 million dollars, was founded in 1955, has been supporting Dartmouth since 2006, and has an emphasis on higher education, fine arts, and cultural institutions. Dartmouth officials have expressed their delight in the donation, saying that it will help reinforce Paul Paganucci's legacy in helping prepare the next generation of leaders.

In Vermont now down in Brattleboro, any resident of the town or surrounding area is no doubt familiar with the annual spectacle known as the Strolling of the Heifers. This morning, the office of Governor Peter Shumlin announced a \$90,000 grant awarded to the Strolling of the Heifers for the Windham Grows project. This large grant will hope to develop and promote business opportunities in the food and agriculture sector in Windham County. In addition to this grant, the Vermont Council on Rural Development was awarded \$40,000 of their own for a "Vernon Community Visit" which hopes to create a forum for community decisions moving Vernon forward. Both of these grants were provided by the Windham County Economic Development Program and the funds stemmed from the closing of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon. The Strolling of the Heifers, which received \$90,000, takes place in early June and local

dairy cows stroll through downtown Brattleboro with their owners, drawing in crowds from all over.

And finally tonight, an unusually warm winter helped set a record for the earliest ice out day on record on Lake Sunapee this year. The ice officially went out, or melted, according to Richard Osborne from Sunapee on March 18th, 2016. The ice is determined "out" when a boat can navigate between Georges Mills Harbor and Newbury Harbor without being blocked by ice. Records on ice out on the lake have been recorded since 1869 with the previous earliest date of March 22, 2012 and the latest day the ice has gone from Lake Sunapee was May 14, 1888. The early melt was foretold earlier in the winter by having one of the warmest Christmas holidays on record and Steve McGrath, a Sunapee resident, even waterskied on the open waters during mid-60 degree weather. Yes he had to wear a wetsuit but the waters, now that they are no longer frozen, can only get warmer from here on out. Can swimming in Lake Sunapee be far behind?

Tuesday, March 22nd. YCN News:

It was a busy today for Claremont police and emergency crews as two separate car accidents occurred within an hour, one leaving four people in the hospital, and the other having an interesting twist. We begin with the latter of those two, as a Claremont teenager is facing multiple charges after leading police on a chase and crashing into a trailer at a home on Citizen Street. Police say that 19-year old Louis Gratacos initiated the chase around 10:45 this morning on Central Street after police attempted to pull him over for a minor traffic violation. The chase led to Citizen Street where he tried to turn at high speed, went off the road, and collided with a 30-foot trailer next to a home at 45 Citizen Street. Gratacos fled on foot but was later apprehended while a passenger was taken into custody when authorities arrived on the scene. Gratacos had previously crashed into a Maple Street home with his car last December which injured his passenger and charges are still pending in that case. Gratacos is being charged in today's crash with possession of controlled drugs, reckless conduct, driving after revocation or suspension, disobeying an officer and conduct after an accident. He is scheduled to be arraigned in the 5th Circuit Court, Claremont District Division Wednesday.

As Claremont police were on the scene at the Citizen Street crash, they were dispatched to Elm Street where a single-car collision had taken place shortly after 11:00 AM. Police say that speed is believed to be a factor in the crash where a blue Chevy Cobalt was travelling on Elm Street when it hit a tree on the outside of a left-hand turn, injuring four out of the five occupants in the vehicle. The driver, 19-year old Travis Franklin Tonini, was uninjured and is currently assisting police in their investigation. Four passengers, who were between 15 and 16 years of age, were all transported to Valley Regional Hospital in Claremont with serious but non-life threatening injuries, according to authorities. None of the passengers were wearing seatbelts and the car still had temporary plates, having been recently purchased from a dealership in nearby

Newport. The Claremont Police Department, the Claremont Fire Department, and Golden Cross Ambulance all responded to the scene.

A developing story out of Lebanon now as city councilors have suspended new City Manager Dennis Luttrell and are taking steps toward firing him. According to the *Valley News*, Luttrell was suspended with pay and benefits as the result of a performance review conducted on his behalf. Mayor Georgia Tuttle also told the newspaper that the council is moving to fire the 65-year-old Massachusetts native. Luttrell was sworn in this past August after receiving unanimous approval from the council to replace former city manager Greg Lewis. Luttrell's contract came with an annual salary of \$125,000 dollars, plus mileage reimbursement and \$5,000 in moving expenses. He was also issued a cellphone and provided cost-of-living raises - like other nonunion city employees. According to the *Valley News*, Luttrell's contract also included an annual review to be conducted by councilors between January 1st and March 1st. YCN News will continue to update you on this developing story.

Staying in the Upper Valley and following up on a story we brought you earlier this month, officials in Lebanon held a public forum last week into the naming process of the Route 4 bridge spanning from West Lebanon into White River Junction, Vermont. The discussion was prompted in response to opposition of a proposal from a Londonderry senator to name the bridge in honor of Korean War veterans. According to the *Valley News* several residents spoke out in favor of naming the bridge after Korean War veterans, citing a nearby bridge named after Vietnam veterans. Others called for a more localized, or all-encompassing name. The bridge was completed late last year at a cost of \$10.7 million dollars, and carries some 13,000 vehicles over the Connecticut River each day. The original bridge at that location was built in 1936. Councilors say they will now create a task force to garner additional community input before it comes to a final decision next fall.

YCN News: the Springfield School District will be undergoing some staff cuts next year. Details when we come back.

In Vermont, members of the Springfield School Board voted unanimously last night to eliminate 14 staff positions from the district. The reduction in staff comes in spite of voters approving a \$29-million dollar budget proposal earlier this year, and instead represents a trend of declining enrollment in recent years. Of the 14 positions voted on last night, six are full-time employees, and eight will come as a result of retirements and resignations. Springfield Superintendent Zachary McLaughlin has said the district has cut nearly 40 jobs in recent years, including some 25 over the past two. Of the teachers whose jobs were cut, district officials have said they expect some will be hired for other open positions within the district. Springfield's Director of Fiscal Services Steve Hier said the reduction of teachers, as well as other reductions made to the budget, will save taxpayers six cents on their residential rate.

Staying in the Green Mountain State, a 62-year-old Ludlow woman was cited last night on charges of aggravated disorderly conduct after she's alleged to have waved a gun at another motorist. According to Vermont State Police, dispatchers received a call from a motorist saying that another motorist had waved a gun at them, and was following them along Route 103 in Clarendon. Dispatchers maintained contact with the caller via cellphone, and troopers eventually located the suspected vehicle - driven by 62-year-old Maria Beauchain of Ludlow - shortly after 6 p.m. in Mount Holly. A firearm was also clearly visible within the vehicle, according to troopers, and Beauchain was subsequently charged with aggravated disorderly conduct. It was not immediately known if the gun was registered to her, though Beauchain faced no additional charges. She was issued a citation to appear in Vermont Superior Court Criminal Division later this month to answer the charges. Anyone who may have witnessed the incident is encouraged to contact Vermont State Police at 802-773-9101.

Staying in Vermont, but in Brattleboro now, students of Brattleboro Union High School will be practicing safety exercises to better respond to the threat of armed intruders, under the name of ALICE. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate, which is a training institute created by Greg Crane, a law enforcement officer in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, inspired by his wife's employment as an elementary school principal. Tomorrow at 8:45 AM, as part of the ALICE exercise, the high school will conduct a Reunification Drill under the supervision of the assistant principal and the Brattleboro police and fire departments. Last year in June, administrators within the Windham Southeast Supervisory Union underwent a two-day ALICE training session to prepare for future drills and in the case of a real event. Assistant Principal Chris Day told the *Brattleboro Reformer* that in the early days of ALICE training, it was taught that students should swarm and active shooter. That idea has been replaced with evacuating the building and/or barricading any doors to hamper an active shooter. Day says that students have been positive and cooperating so far.

And finally tonight, as we get closer to the Vermont gubernatorial election this coming November, a local candidate has thrown his hat into the ring. Former US Ambassador and US State Senator Peter Galbraith told the *Brattleboro Reformer* this morning that he will be running for the Democratic nomination to succeed current governor Peter Shumlin who has ties in the Westminster and Putney areas. He told the newspaper that his campaign will focus on economic justice and fairness as well as making life easier for working class families. Galbraith hopes to promote fair taxes including cutting property taxes across the Green Mountain State and creating appropriate tax rates for high-income individuals and families. With this morning's announcement, there are now five total candidates running for the office, not including Shumlin, who announced last year that he won't be seeking a fourth term. Galbraith, joins Sue Minter and Matt Dunne while they seek the nomination for their party while Bruce Lisman and Lieutenant Governor Phil Scott vie for the nomination for the Republican party.

Wednesday, March 23rd. YCN News:

We begin tonight with a major update in a story that we've been following closely since 2013. Expectations were high on the part of proponents of the Mount Sunapee expansion into the West Bowl for today's Governor and Council meeting at the State House in Concord. Over 30 protesters picketed in front of the State House then moved inside to the Executive Council chambers adjacent to the Governor's Office. The approval on the part of the Council was the 40th item on the agenda so as they worked through the opening formalities and the first few items the Governor indicated that because of the size of the crowd she would take a motion to move ahead to the Mount Sunapee expansion. Councilor Joseph Kennedy who represents the first district that includes the town of Sunapee made a motion to table the item until the next council meeting with the caveat that they would hold a hearing before so the members could be better briefed by DRED Commissioner Jeffrey Rice. The members felt that they needed to be better informed on the proposal before voting. The vote was 5-0 to table under the proposed conditions. YCN asked Mount Sunapee Resort's General Manager Jay Gamble how he felt about the postponed decision.

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The hearing is proposed for April 4th. We will continue to run our "Mount Sunapee: The Decision" special between now and then. As we have since 2013, YCN will continue to follow this story as it develops.

Now a development in a story that we broke in December. A New York man who drove through Claremont's Opera House Square before crashing into the Moody Building while allegedly under the influence of alcohol last fall will stand trial in August. 55-year-old Patrick Taylor, of Hancock, New York is facing felony charges of reckless conduct with a deadly weapon and criminal mischief resulting in the loss of more than \$1,500 stemming from the December 17 incident. He was indicted by a Sullivan County Grand Jury earlier this year. Taylor, who is currently free on personal recognizance bail, also faces charges of driving under the influence of drugs and simple assault in Claremont district court stemming from the incident. The 123-year-old Moody Building - owned by the Zullo/Dauphin Group - received extensive damage to two concrete posts near the curblin, with one shattering the window of the neighboring Farro Deli. Total damage to the Moody Building was estimated at approximately \$38,000 dollars. The columns have since been repaired and the building shows no signs of the damage done.

Turning to Upper Valley news now, officials at Dartmouth College are in the midst of final preparations ahead of an upcoming climate change conference to feature several top environmentalists. According to a news release issued yesterday by the college, the conference is titled "Changing Climate, Changing Minds" and is set to run Friday, April 8 through Saturday, April 9. The conference will be free and open to the public, and will focus on the "predicted dire effects of human activity on the world's climate," according to the news release. The event will kick off with a keynote address from Terry Tempest Williams - an environmental activist and author - on opening night at 7 p.m. at Moore

Hall in the Filene Auditorium. Other speakers will include Jim McCarthy - a Harvard biologist - David Loy - a Zen Buddhist teacher - and the Reverend Canon Sally Bingham - an Episcopal priest. The conference is part of the "Sustainability Solutions Cafe" lecture series.

Down in Brattleboro now, following the town meeting on the 12th, the vote for the relocation of the police station to Black Mountain Road will not go to a re-vote, despite the efforts of local citizens. The *Brattleboro Reformer* reports that Dora Bouboulis, a Town Meeting Representative from District 3, had been rallying local citizens and convincing them to sign a petition that would prevent the police station move. The petition was due yesterday at 5 PM and although Bouboulis received 344 signatures, it wasn't enough, as 400 resident signatures or 50 Town Meeting Representative signatures were needed for it to be valid. She told the newspaper that if she had more time than what was allotted, she would have been able to receive the extra signatures needed, yet she is thankful for those who did pitch in. The police station relocation was approved 111-27 during the Town Meeting on March 12th, which would move the headquarters out of the downtown and onto Black Mountain Road, the current location of the *Reformer*, which would become a tenant. However, Bouboulis plans to keep making her voice heard and plans to petition once again, this time to change the town's charter on how petitions themselves are handled.

YCN News: are you frustrated with the current system of parking meters in Woodstock Vermont? We've got a story you won't wanna miss when we come back.

Well these next two stories for any resident of Claremont who supports the revitalization of Pleasant Street, which has been the focus of some city initiatives to repopulate the numerous empty storefronts. A new business is set to open up in May that will feature food grown and raised within 100 miles of Claremont. Aptly named, 100 Mile Market is scheduled to open on May 7th at 35 Pleasant Street. The store will be run by April Woodman, who worked as administrative assistant to the SAU 6 superintendent for 14 years. Woodman is a fourth generation Claremont resident and said that the store is the result of two years of planning and research into consumer demand in the area. The store will sell in-house made bread and rolls as well as meats, dairy products, canned and frozen products, as well as an herbal apothecary and wall for growing natural herbs. Woodman hopes to sell a wide variety of meats and other locally-sourced merchandise.

Well another empty storefront on Pleasant Street will be receiving a new occupant and once again will have customers walking in the front door. The owners of Simply Sweet Creations is opening a new store at 36 Pleasant St. called Country Pleasantries, which is right next door to their current location. The store will feature country home decor and will be housed in the space formerly occupied by The Silver Fern and Grill. A preview of

the business was held this past Saturday. We caught up with Heidi Leslie and Kate Spear, the mother and daughter duo that own the two businesses.

SOT

Again, the doors will open tomorrow and will also feature chicken salad sandwiches, homemade salads, chili, and of course, candy.

In Vermont now up in Woodstock, parking meters were the talk of the town, or the talk of the trustees I should say, during this week's meeting. *The Vermont Standard* reports that members of the Economic Development Commission presented alternatives to the current parking meter system to the town's Board of Trustees. The Chamber of Commerce Director, Beth Finlayson, explained that there is much frustration with the current system of parking meters in the town and that at least one is jammed every day. The EDC told the board that simply eliminating the meters from the town would not be advantageous from a revenue perspective, as the town has had them in place since 1943 and pulled in over \$110,000 from fees and ticket fines last year. Some alternatives were presented moving forward, including investing in credit card meters that would make them easier to use for some residents and raising the meter rate to one dollar an hour compared to the current 50 cents an hour. Other options were considered like more forgivable ticketing and investing in more parking spaces overall. The Board of Trustees will consider all the alternatives presented by the EDC and will move ahead accordingly.

And finally tonight, staying in Woodstock, police officers in the Vermont town are picking up on a national trend that has been catching on recently on our region. Tomorrow, all citizens of Woodstock are invited to stop by the South Woodstock Store for a "Coffee with the Chief" event, part of the the national Coffee with a Cop phenomenon. The event will be taking place from 7 AM to 9 AM and residents have a chance to meet and converse with Police Chief Robbie Blish. The main crux of the event is to promote conversation between members of the community and the Chief to foster a stronger relationship between the entire department and those who they serve within the town. In addition, the intention is to create a more relaxed atmosphere to simply stop by and say hi or to casually discuss any areas of concern or suggestions for improvements that would aid the department in its mission to serve the citizens. Chief Blish was hired in 2011 and was chosen among 20 candidates for the position. Other towns in our region including Sunapee, Lebanon, and Hanover have all taken part in the national Coffee with a Cop initiative and have made efforts to better connect with area residents.

Thursday, March 24th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with yet another update on the proposed Southern Vermont Justice Center, as one of the biggest financial backers of the project has apparently pulled out. According to the *Eagle Times*, Windham County Sheriff Keith Clark withdrew an application for necessary planning and zoning permits yesterday - just one day before a

public hearing was scheduled to discuss the controversial proposal - and says he is no longer pursuing a justice center. Clark told the newspaper that the U.S. Marshal's office no longer wanted to move forward with financial support, and that without its assistance, the project would not be possible. The detention facility was originally proposed to be constructed along the riverfront in Bellows Falls at the site of the old Liberty Mill Paper Company building, though community members heavily resisted the project. Clark scratched that location earlier this month, and shifted sites on a large portion of land in Rockingham north of the Exit 6 ramp off Interstate 91, though those plans were also met with resistance.

A Claremont man accused of leading police on two high-speed chases in recent months, including one this week, will likely remain behind bars until his next court date scheduled for next week. Bail for 19-year-old Louis Gratacos III was set at \$100,000 according to court documents, as requested by the prosecution and agreed upon by Judge John Yazinski. Prosecutors say they requested the high amount to ensure public safety against Gratacos's alleged reckless behavior. Gratacos pleaded not guilty earlier this week to several charges stemming from a Tuesday morning incident in which he's alleged to have crashed his Audi sedan into a garage and trailer while attempting to elude police - officers also found marijuana in the car, according to the incident report. Gratacos is likely to face additional, non-related charges in connection with a November incident in which he's alleged to have crashed into a Maple Avenue home and seriously injuring his passenger while fleeing police. Gratacos is due back in court March 31 for a probable cause hearing.

Staying in Claremont and updating a story we brought you earlier this month, city councilors unanimously voted last night to support efforts to convert the city's street lamps from traditional to LED bulbs. The 8-0 vote now gives the green light for the Public Works Department and city manager to seek grant funding and other additional financial support. The city currently uses about 1,000 high-pressure sodium bulbs in its street lights, which were installed some six years ago to replace even less efficient mercury bulbs. LED lights are said to have a much longer lifespan than sodium bulbs, lasting between 20 and 25 years. Public Works Assistant Director Victor St. Pierre has said the conversion would save the city approximately \$1-million dollars over the course of 20 years. The total budgeted cost of converting the 1,000 lights to LED is upwards of \$300,000 dollars according to the *Eagle Times*, though that number includes outright ownership of the fixtures, which are currently owned by Eversource.

Over in nearby Newport, the town's board of selectmen approved a \$9.5-million dollar operating budget proposal last night that will now go to voters for final approval. And in a town that voted down a proposed school district budget, forcing the use of a default budget and potential cuts to several teaching positions, there is some good news that comes with this proposal. The \$9.5-million dollar allotment the town is asking voters to approve - and three additional spending articles totaling \$35,000 - would result in a decrease of 21 cents from the town's current tax rate. If voters reject the proposal, resorting to the default budget would result in an increase of three cents to the current

tax rate. Of the \$35,000 dollars in additional spending articles, \$20,000 would go toward recreation, \$10,000 to the district court and \$5,000 toward communications. Residents of Newport will meet for their annual Deliberative Session on April 5.

YCN News: a Lebanon-based company is preparing their move to Claremont. Details when we come back.

In local business news, a Lebanon-based company is beginning to move their base of operations to an industrial park here in Claremont. NH Industries, located at 68 Etna Road, is gearing up to move into the former Ice River Springs Building at 10 River Bend Industrial Park. The company purchased the building for \$3.5 million in January, and is currently fixing it up to accommodate the necessary machinery and equipment. The city's planning board approved the company's site plan back in November and just this week, city officials spoke out on Tuesday welcoming the manufacturer. Planning and Development Director Nancy Merrill said that the move shows that the manufacturing industry in Claremont is constantly growing. NH Industries is responsible for manufacturing pulley assemblies and custom products involving precision machining and has three other locations in Wisconsin, Mexico, and China. If you're an area resident with machining experience, NH Industries is accepting applications, which you can find on their website, NHIPulleys.com, where you can also find more information on the company.

Staying in Claremont tonight, the early childhood education program at Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center will be discontinued and replaced with a new program for aspiring teachers. The announcement was made at a school board meeting last Wednesday where SAU 6 Superintendent Middleton McGoodwin said that although the program was good, it was not in alignment with state education and tech center expectations. The classrooms used for the program will be changed in preparation for two pre-K classes that will be relocated from Maple Avenue Elementary School. A teacher preparation program for high school students will be developed during the 2016-17 school year for launch in the 2017-18 school year. These changes will be funded through the SAU budget. The Sugar River Valley Technical Center offers a variety of programs including general engineering, building and construction services, and other craft skill-based curriculum.

Across the river down down in Springfield, Vermont now, residents and town officials met to discuss the state prison in town. Springfield's Project ACTION group sponsored the community meeting Tuesday night with officials from Southern State Correctional Facility, the town probation and parole office, and the police department. About 25 residents attended the meeting held at Riverside School and the major talking points focused on addiction and the release of inmates into the town. The prison's Superintendent Mark Potanas said 90 percent of those who pass through the facility have co-occurring issues that coincide with drug or alcohol abuse, and that about 20

percent are addicted. Officials clarified that no one released from the Southern State Correctional Facility is then released into the Springfield population, alleviating the concerns of some residents. The prison in Springfield is one of nine across the entire state and is an all-male facility with 370 beds. It opened in 2003 and maintains around 150 state employee positions.

And finally tonight, Santa's Land in Putney, Vermont has gained a bad reputation over the years. According to the *Brattleboro Reformer*, a new animal loving expert is interested in purchasing the park that has notoriously treated its animals poorly in past years. But she says she isn't focused on keeping the Santa theme alive. C.S Wurzberger of Marlboro plans on turning the park into a "Rare Breeds Zoological Park". Her vision is to construct a facility that hosts endangered animals native to the U.S. She hopes to expose kids and adults to all different types of native rare animals that you might not see at a traditional zoo. At tonight's select board meeting at the Putney town hall she will give a powerpoint presentation to show the community her vision of a new Santa's Land. Previously, Wurzberger had run petting zoos, worked closely with the USDA, and is a trained animal rehabilitator. She also has a masters certificate in sustainable innovation from the University of Vermont. She is hoping to raise just over \$500,000 in order to purchase land permits and start a major cleanup process. If you would like to donate you can visit her crowd funding website at www.IndieGogo.com and search "Join Us In Building a Rare Breeds Zoological Park". She hopes to open the new park in the Spring of 2017.

Friday, March 25th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with a potential sign of good things to come for the Croydon School District in its ongoing battle with the state regarding school choice. The New Hampshire House of Representatives approved HB (House Bill) 1637 Wednesday afternoon, which would allow districts without schools containing certain grades to send students to non-religious private schools. The Croydon School District has been entangled in a battle with the state's Department of Education regarding its current practice of sending four students - ranging in grades four through eight - to the nearby Newport Montessori School. The state's attorney general's office filed a cease and desist order for Croydon to immediately stop the practice earlier this fall, though the district won an injunction in November to temporarily continue. The district is still waiting for a decision based on the merits of the law that will decide if the practice can continue next year. The bill passed the House by a 208-to-143 margin, and will now head to the senate for approval.

Sticking with news of the education front, school board officials in both Newport and Croydon met recently to discuss details regarding the upcoming breakup of SAU 43. Residents of both towns voted to create their own single-town districts earlier this month, and will officially disband from the district June 30 - the final day of the 2015-16 fiscal year. Newport will keep the name SAU 43 based on a prior agreement, but it was not immediately known what SAU designation Croydon will be given. According to the *Eagle Times*, one detail discussed between boards was how to distribute an anticipated

access of funds. The amount, which was projected at slightly more than \$40,000 dollars, was agreed to a split in a manner that resembles the town's historic agreement - based on enrollment and tax rates - with Newport to receive 90 percent and Croydon 10. Physicals items, including desks, chairs, tables, bookcases and computers, will also be split by a 90-percent, 10-percent margin.

And sadly once again heroin is in the headlines, as a 44-year-old Claremont man was arrested in Lebanon on Wednesday evening after a joint investigation into illegal drug sales in the city. According to authorities, officers approached 44-year-old Brian Coleman in a parking lot of a Lebanon business shortly after 8:30 Wednesday evening as part of the investigation, and found the man to be in the possession of 11 grams of heroin and an undisclosed amount of methadone. Coleman was arrested on charges of conspiracy to sell, and possession of a controlled drug, and ordered held on \$5,000 bail. It was not immediately know what Coleman was doing in the parking lot, or if authorities had arranged the encounter. Coleman, who was being housed at the Grafton County House of Corrections, was arraigned yesterday in Lebanon District Court. Both Lebanon police and members of the Hampshire Attorney General's Drug Task Force took part in the investigation.

Well two local restaurants were dealt a humbling honor by a statewide television network this week by placing in the top 10 of the station's "Viewers' Choice" contest for best brunch spots in the Granite State. According to the WMUR poll, The Old Courthouse Restaurant in Newport ranked in a tie for sixth with the Red Fox Bar up in Jackson. The Old Courthouse is located in the former district courthouse, in a building built way back in 1826. The restaurant is open for lunch Wednesday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Taking sole possession of the second spot was Appleseed Restaurant and Catering in Bradford. Like The Old Courthouse, the Appleseed was also built in the 1800s, and was a popular bed and breakfast during the hotel and train era of the Lake Sunapee Region. As for brunch, Sunday's the day with the restaurant open from 8 a.m. until noon. We should also note that Tucker's - which has a restaurant in New London - had its Hooksett location honored with a tie for eighth place.

YCN News: we've got an update in the child pornography case of a Dartmouth professor. Details when we come back.

We're back with an update in a story that we've had since last year as a Dartmouth professor accused of possession of child pornography is looking to change his plea in the case. J. Martin Favor, a professor of African-American studies at Dartmouth and a resident of Plainfield, was arrested in September of 2015 when police found five videos depicting sexual abuse of children on his computer. Now, according to court documents, the 49-year old Favor will plead guilty to one felony count of possession of child pornography, following an "acknowledgement and waiver of rights" filed on Wednesday

in US District Court in Concord. Previously, he had pleaded not guilty during his arraignment in the fall and faces up to 10 years in prison, a fine of up to a quarter million dollars, and supervised release with terms and conditions. An affidavit that was unsealed recently has revealed more of how specifically Favor was caught, involving the social media site Tumblr where the child porn content in question was flagged and tripped an online alarm when it was detected. Favor remains on paid leave from his position at Dartmouth. The change of plea hearing is set for March 31st in Concord.

Following up on a story we brought you earlier this week, yesterday at Brattleboro Union High School, students, teachers, mock parents, and emergency personnel took part in a reunification drill. This exercise aims to prepare the town's parents and students in the case of an emergency occurring at the school and how they can more easily and safely reunite with one another. Students from the high school were transported to the VFW where they waited in one room while the mock parents waited in another. Then the parents and students were guided to a private location where the parents would then be able to sign a student reunification card once they were reunited with their child. Some students felt as if the process took too long and might not be very effective while others thought that having some kind of a plan is better than none at all. The four reunification locations are not being released to the public and will not be released unless there is an emergency as the site needs to be secured before parents, guardians or press flood the area. Emergency Services and the Windham Southeast Supervisory Union sponsored the exercise process.

Now focusing on the 2016 gubernatorial race in Vermont, a local candidate from Hartland, Matt Dunne, has been hitting the campaign trail to stump for votes across the Green Mountain State. His most recent venture brought him to Bellows Falls on Wednesday at the Falls Area Community Television studio, where he expressed his love for Vermont and allowed viewers to get a closer look at the Democratic candidate. He explained many talking points, including bolstering infrastructure but not through roads and bridges, but rather through more housing options. Dunne has a wealth of experience under his belt, having served four terms in the Vermont House of Representatives, two terms in the Vermont Senate, and was even the Democratic candidate for governor during the 2010 election. This election cycle, Dunne is running against Sue Minter and recently-announced Peter Galbraith for the Democratic nomination. Meanwhile on the Republican side of the table, Bruce Lisman and Lieutenant Governor Phil Scott are vying for their party's nomination.

And finally tonight, the city of Claremont has outlined their upcoming timber harvest plans, hoping to bring in even more revenue for the city. On Wednesday during the city council meeting, Assistant Director of Public Works Victor St. Pierre informed councilors on the harvest project for this spring and summer, which ultimately began in 2008 as a forestry management plan. To date, the timber harvests have yielded more than half a million dollars for the city, according to the *Eagle Times*, and it benefits the entire state as well, having added roughly 3.7 million dollars to the state's economy through labor and commercial forest products. The tree harvest and removal has traditionally taken

place at many different spots around the city and this year is no different. Popular recreation areas such as Moody Park and Arrowhead Recreation Area have received recent cutting, which worked to eliminate hazard trees. This year, work will be done on Winter Street, the Rice and White Water reservoirs, and Arrowhead once again, just to name a few. Victor St. Pierre of Public Works says that the city's forestry management is of "great value".

Monday, March 28th. YCN News:

Well it was a beautiful Sunday for Easter celebrations in our immediate area, as the nearby Mount Sunapee Resort even hosted a sunrise service on the top of the summit, which we will get to later on. But in one Vermont town just west of Woodstock, things got a little out of hand as a large number of families gathered for an Easter egg hunt. According to the *Rutland Herald*, police used pepper spray during their response to a call regarding "multiple irate parents" at the Wilson Castle in Proctor shortly before 2 p.m. Police say one man, 34-year-old Michael Cuthertson of Newbury, was arrested after it was alleged he made threats before attempting to flee officers. The *Rutland Herald* reports that between 1,200 and 1,500 people turned out for the Easter egg hunt, and that trouble began when people broke through the ropes before the scheduled start of the event, and began scooping up eggs. No injuries were reported.

Well it was a wild scene in Lebanon early Saturday morning as a 20-year-old Grantham man was arrested after crashing a stolen vehicle into a School Street home while attempting to flee police. According to Lebanon police, officers observed a 2013 Chevrolet 1-ton dump truck passing another vehicle over a double yellow line. When officers attempted to stop the vehicle, it sped off, prompting what proved to be a brief chase. Officers observed the vehicle round a corner at a high rate of speed, and roll onto its side before crashing into a home at 104 School Street. The driver of the vehicle, 20-year-old Gabriel Blanche of Grantham, was transported to nearby Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center for treatment of minor injuries. He was then released into the custody of police on charges of receiving stolen property, criminal mischief, reckless conduct and driving under the influence. Blanche was held at the Grafton County House of Corrections on \$100,000 dollars bail.

Staying in the Upper Valley, officials at Dartmouth College are scheduled to enter mediation later this Spring with a family whose well was contaminated by chemicals from a former burial ground for lab animals used by the school. According to the *Valley News*, the sides will meet in May to discuss the contamination concerns, which were discovered by the college in 2012 after it had begun excavating carcasses buried at the Rennie Farm. The college discovered that the site - used mainly in the 1960s - contained levels of 1,4-dioxane well above the state standard. 1,4-dioxane is classified by the Environmental Protection Agency as a probable human carcinogen. Dartmouth College has been working with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services since the discovery, and began conducting tests on nearby wells this past fall,

according to the *Valley News*. Neither the college, nor affected residents are discussing details about the negotiations.

Crossing back into Vermont now, state officials say they're hopeful that groundwater-intrusion issues at the former Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant will lead to better communication between the sides. Concerns between the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and plant owner Entergy arose after a February 18th article published by VT Digger, featured photos of portable swimming pools filled with water, and a quote from a Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesperson saying the water contained "very low levels of tritium." The images and coinciding comments rose red flags for state officials regarding safety, but has since prompted an opened dialogue between parties. Department of Health Radiological and Toxicological Sciences Chief Bill Irwin told the *Brattleboro Reformer* that the situation was a "blessing in disguise" and that Entergy officials are now "entraining a wide variety of questions" regarding the decommissioning process. Vermont Yankee shutdown on December 29th, 2014 after 36 years of operation.

YCN News: we've got a look at Sunapee's Easter Sunrise Service yesterday. That's when we come back.

How would you liked to have started your Easter morning with someone ramming their car into your business's front porch? I'm not sure many people would like that but over in New London, sometime between Saturday afternoon and early Sunday morning on Easter, someone drove into Bonin Architecture's front porch right off of Main Street, then took off. The car splintered a railing and completely knocked down a main pillar on the front corner of the building. The damage was noticed early Easter morning and New London Police quickly characterized the incident as a hit and run. Based on the scene it was concluded that the perpetrator's vehicle was not an SUV or a truck as the tire marks left behind indicated a smaller vehicle. The evidence suggests that the driver backed into the edge of the porch which most likely caused the pillar to crash onto the car. One of the owners, Kim Bonin tells YCN News does say that it is normal for drivers to use their lot as a turnaround point but the way this specific driver backed into their porch was unusual as they backed in from the main street instead of turning around in the lot first. No significant structural damage occurred and police are on the lookout for a vehicle whose bumper and rear are very damaged.

In political news now, one local town is hosting a forum for the Democratic Vermont gubernatorial candidates, bringing the three announced candidates into the same room to each say their piece. The event was scheduled to take place at 7:00 PM tonight at Damon Hall in Hartland Vermont, and was hosted by the Windsor County Democratic Committee. As of last week, there are now three Democratic candidates vying for Vermont's top office to take the place of outgoing governor, Peter Shumlin, who announced last summer that he would not be running for a fourth term. The three

candidates are Matt Dunne, Sue Minter, and Peter Galbraith, the first of which is a resident of Hartland himself so the forum is on his own turf. Both Dunne and Minter announced their candidacies last September and former US Ambassador Peter Galbraith announced his just last week. An informal reception took place prior to the main forum event, at 6 and attendees were asked to donate \$10 so that the group could continue to host such events.

Anyone got a green thumb out there? What's more, do you live in or near Woodstock Vermont? Well if you answered yes to either one of those, or both, this story may interest you. The group Sustainable Woodstock is now preparing for the upcoming growing season in the community gardens in town and are offering a friendly welcome to anyone interested in working on their own plot. The community gardens offer a variety of benefits to residents, including providing a learning experience from more experienced gardeners, allowing residents to get exercise and connect with nature, and also promoting relationships and interactions among neighbors. Sustainable Woodstock's community gardens are apt of an attempt to lower the combined carbon footprint of area residents and raise awareness of local-grown food. The first garden ever created by the group was established in 2009 at King Farm but now offer a variety of gardens. Any interested Woodstock or area resident can get in touch with the group to claim their plot, which only costs \$40.

And finally tonight, following up on a story we brought you two weeks ago and circling back around to news about Easter, Mount Sunapee Resort in Newbury held an event yesterday that was the first of its kind at the area mountain. The Easter Sunrise Service atop Mount Sunapee attracted nearly 200 early morning worshipers, who were able to start their day with the service and witnessing a wonderful early spring sunrise over the region. The mountain provided lift service to the top beginning around 6 AM. As guests ascended the mountain, clouds blanketed the sky and service started in the clouds, but the sun cooperated and broke through, bathing the crowd in sunlight. The Reverend's David Keller, pastor of the South Newbury Union Church, and Mollie Landers-Hatt, Director of Outdoor Ministries for the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ, shared the leadership of the service. Many of those who came up the mountain skied down in excellent snow conditions, getting in some last-minute skiing this season. Non-skiers were able to take the lift down and this was the first Easter Sunrise service atop Mount Sunapee.

Tuesday, March 29th. YCN News:

We begin tonight with an update on a story we first brought you last fall regarding a 49-year-old Newport man charged with possessing hundreds of images of child pornography on his personal computer. According to authorities, 49-year-old Allen Langlois pleaded guilty yesterday in Federal Court on the charges stemming from his September arrest. Langlois was arrested Sept. 27 at his 8 Roseland Land home after authorities executed a search warrant as the result of a lengthy investigation. Local, state and federal authorities all took part in the operation, which was conducted as a

result of Project Safe Childhood - a nationwide initiative aimed at protecting children from online exploitation and abuse. Langlois is due back in court in July for sentencing, which is expected to be 42 months' imprisonment, and a lengthy period of supervised release as part of his plea deal. He also faces fines of up to \$250,000. The class A Felony could carry a sentence of up to 15 years in prison.

Right here in Claremont, members of the city's zoning board are being asked to waive ordinances that prohibit the construction of a proposed independent senior living community on Washington Street. According to the *Eagle Times*, the zoning board is scheduled to review the application April 4, at the request of Wayne and Jean McCutcheon. The couple have said they hope to construct 66 senior condominium units on 18 acres on land they own at 492 Washington Street. An additional .2 adjacent acres would be acquired through annexation, which was approved by the planning board last night. Each unit - designed for independent individuals 55 and older - would feature one- and two-bedroom apartments with living, dining and bathrooms. The McCutcheon's are asking the city for a variance from rules governing permitted uses within residential zones, as well as lot sizes. Wayne McCutcheon, who works locally as a surveyor, bought the 492 Washington Street property in 1969.

On a very similar note across the river in Vermont, a developer hoping to construct an 80-unit assisted living facility in White River Junction plans to hold preliminary meetings with the town this week and potentially break ground in July. According to the *Valley News*, Byron Hathorn's Rio Blanco Corp. has proposed building the \$25 million dollar facility on 109 Gates Street across from the United Methodist Church, downtown. A spokeswoman for the developer told the *Valley News* that the facility is a "high-end hotel with support, not a nursing home with flexibility." Developers had been in talks with the church regarding a potential deal to acquire land, but plans fell through with the project moving forward nonetheless. City officials will meet with developers for the preliminary meetings this week, before a formal review scheduled for May 2. Hathorn has said he hopes to break ground on the project as early as July, and if all goes smoothly, residents could potentially move in come the fall of 2017.

Well you've heard the warnings before that it's not just alcohol that can lead to driving under the influence charges, and a 24-year-old Vermont man found that out the hard way yesterday after what began was a routine traffic stop. According to Vermont State Police, troopers conducted a motor vehicle stop for defective equipment at the junction of Route 11 and Magic Mountain Access Road in Londonderry shortly before 9 p.m. During the stop, it was determined that the operator of the vehicle, 24-year-old Mitchell Smith of Jamaica, Vermont, had consumed marijuana prior to operating the vehicle, and was impaired. Smith was arrested for suspicion of DUI, and during a consented search of his vehicle, approximately 2.7 grams of marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia were located. He was transported to the Rockingham State Police barracks for processing, and issued a citation to appear in Windham County Superior Criminal Court on May 31.

YCN News: Brattleboro police are investigating a string of break-ins. Details when we come back.

In Sunapee now, police are investigating a three-vehicle accident that occurred yesterday on Route 11. According to a press release, at around 2:30 in the afternoon yesterday, Sunapee Police responded to Route 11 in Georges Mills near Jobs Creek Road for a reported 3-vehicle accident. Two of the vehicles were traveling east on Route 11 and the third was traveling west when the westbound vehicle crossed the centerline and hit both of the eastbound vehicles. All three vehicles were removed from the scene and the driver of the westbound vehicle was arrested and taken to New London Hospital where he had blood drawn to determine if alcohol was a factor in the crash, along with speed. The Sunapee Police Department was assisted by Sunapee Fire and EMS and New London Hospital Ambulance personnel. The accident is still under investigation tonight and police are asking anyone with any information on this accident to contact Sunapee Police at 603-763-5555.

Sticking with police news, this time out of Brattleboro, police in the southern Vermont town are investigating a string of break ins and are warning residents to lock their cars. Brattleboro Police Captain Mark Carignan told the Brattleboro Reformer yesterday that an officer had received ten reports in the past couple of days of break-ins. The department says that most of the break-ins are actually occurring to locked cars in residents' driveways, where there is the perception that they are safe. However, the Captain Carignan is advising people to lock their car doors even when parked at home, be it in a driveway or on the street. He explained that robbers do not look to smash windows but instead see if the car is unlocked, and if not, will move on to the next. Police patrol shifts have accordingly been adjusted to focus more on the south end of town near Pine Street, Central Street, and Clark Avenue. If you know anything about these break-ins that could help with the department's investigation, contact them at 802-257-7946.

On a lighter note now, up in Woodstock, town voters met last week and unanimously approved their operating budget for 2016-2017. Up for discussion during Tuesday night's meeting among town voters was the roughly \$1.5 million budget and various issues in town. *The Vermont Standard* reports that road paving on Route 4 was a hot topic, which is in poor shape and residents made their voices heard. Village Manager Phil Swanson explained that repairs would be made to the road but they wouldn't make the road "too nice", or else the state wouldn't feel pressured to reconstruct the road entirely. Also up for discussion at the meeting was the introduction of a police bike patrol during the summer months in the village which hopes to make an officer more available. Among other business, the village's trustees approved a 20-year lease extension of the welcome center, which will subsequently allow the Chamber of Commerce to rent out, as they had previously discussed.

And finally tonight, today was a big day for Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and the TLC Family Resource Center as it marked the beginning of a new project that continues to provide good support for low-income mothers. New research shows that how a baby is handled can affect its long term development and a certain type of chair is now being examined as a way to assist in healthy development. Maggie Monroe-Cassel explains.

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If you'd like to like learn more, you can visit www.TLCFamilyRC.org. Or call 603-542-1848.

Wednesday, March 30th. YCN News:

Well yesterday marked a big day for officials and residents of Windsor alike as work on a 30-day project began to replace the main water line under the town's Main Street. The work will take place on the stretch between the intersection of Main and State Streets down to the Constitution House, and force slight detours in the area. According to Town Manager Tom Marsh, workers will replace the current main line that measures some six inches in diameter, with a 12-inch line that will allow for greater water flow in case of an emergency. Officials estimate the project will cost \$400,000, and say it will be paid for out of the town's Water Utility Capital Fund. Marsh told the *Eagle Times* he hopes to have the water line replaced by the second half of April before additional crews arrive to repave a lengthy portion of downtown Windsor from Main Street to the West Windsor line.

Staying in Vermont, the much debated Springfield nuisance ordinance was passed unanimously Monday night by the town's Select board . The ordinance, which will go in effect in 60 days after publishing, requires property owners within 500 feet of schools and licensed daycares to maintain their property to a certain aesthetic standard. The idea, according to town officials, is to elevate the attractiveness of the town to potential new residents and business owners. Residents met for a public hearing on the proposal earlier this month, in which several changes were adopted. The first was to limit the zone to within 500 feet of schools and daycares, with the second being the addition of a clause that allows for "compassion for residents" in instances of elderly or disabled homeowners. The decision can be appealed within 45 days of Monday's vote by way of a petition containing the signatures of 5-percent of the town's population - or about 300 residents.

And now a tragic story out of Weare, New Hampshire, and one that's all too familiar to residents here in Claremont, as a 31-year-old Lyndeborough firefighter was killed yesterday when a tree fell on top of the truck he was driving. According to the *Concord Monitor*, Lyndeborough volunteer firefighter Derek Lankowski was killed shortly before 3 p.m. yesterday afternoon while driving south near the entrance of John Stark Regional High School on Route 114. Students were delayed from leaving the school while authorities responded to the scene. Officials say heavy winds were likely a factor in the

accident, with gusts of up to 46 mph reported in the area. This past July, 24-year-old Claremont resident Kyle Leclair was killed while driving on Chestnut Street when a tree fell on top of his vehicle during a severe thunderstorm. That storm downed down several trees and power lines in the area.

A 57-year-old Michigan man pleaded guilty yesterday to luring a child for sex and lying to police while living in the Upper Valley in 2015. According to court documents, 57-year-old Dale Vodden was sentenced to 10 months in jail for sexual exploitation and providing false information to law enforcement stemming from the May 2015 incident. Vodden, who was released after the hearing having already served his sentence while awaiting a resolution, is accused of approaching a girl under the age of 16 at Riverbank Church in White River Junction and requesting a sexual encounter. According to the affidavit, the girl then told her mother about Vodden, who in turn alerted police. A representative read a statement on behalf of the victim in court in which she encouraged other victims of unwanted sexual advances to come forward. The *Valley News* reports that Vodden, who will also be required to register as a sex offender, was scheduled to take a bus back to Michigan yesterday evening.

YCN News: residents of Hartford Vermont are being asked to offer their input on recycling in town. Details when we come back.

Now an update in an ongoing story that we've been following for some time now, the Brattleboro Select board was set to vote on the police station move at tonight's board meeting. An agenda released on Monday shows that the board will vote to give Town Manager Peter Elwell the go-ahead to purchase the *Brattleboro Reformer* building on Black Mountain Road. During the Representative Town Meeting on March 12th, the funding for the move was approved 111-27 and no valid petitions were filed that would try to thwart an approval vote, despite the actions of one resident who attempted to file a petition but couldn't do so in time. If the board votes to approve the purchase, a down payment of \$35,000 will be made to Alden Global Capital, the parent company of the *Reformer*. If the vote is a no, the town would have to pay \$10,000 to prevent the building from being marketed. Besides moving the police station, representatives also approved renovations for the fire department's station on Elliot Street, bringing the total cost of the move and renovations to just shy of \$13 million.

Staying in Vermont tonight but moving further North to Hartford, residents of the town are being asked to offer input through a survey that will shed some light on how the statewide recycling law is working out. The survey can be completed online through the Hartford Vermont website and asks a variety of questions, which can be completed anonymously. The state developed the survey to measure the change in household practices in handling recyclables, various types of waste, and demolition debris over the next 5 years. The town of Hartford's website says that a similar survey will be conducted in the spring of 2021 for comparison and that the survey results will be filed with the

Vermont Waste Management Division. Act 148 was unanimously passed in 2012 which bans the disposal of recyclables including metal, glass, plastic, and paper/cardboard. Last July, leaf and yard debris fell under the same jurisdiction and in July of this year, food scraps must also be recycled. The state is asking residents to fill out the survey by April 10th.

Any teenager or young adult has no doubt had an adult tell them that it's up to their generation to truly enact change in this world, trust me I know. Well a group of college students over at the local Ivy League school, Dartmouth, has taken that advice to heart and has successfully petitioned to have a certain expression of offensive language removed from the Library of Congress's vocabulary. As of the summer of this year, the term "illegal alien" will no longer appear in the Library's language, which sets the cataloguing standards for libraries across the country. Instead, the terms "noncitizens" and "unauthorized immigration" will be used, which are deemed as less offensive and not dehumanizing. This change in vocabulary was enacted by a determined group of Dartmouth undergraduates who had tried for two years to have the diction replaced, and finally succeeded through a petition. An official release from the Library of Congress explains the language change in further detail and if you're interested in reading the full and official announcement, we've got the link posted on our website.

And finally tonight, this one goes out to all my peeps...of the marshmallow variety that is. For the fifth year in a row, the Library Arts Center in Newport crowned the winners of the Annual Peeps Diorama Contest. On Friday, more than 300 people poured into the Library Arts Center for the "Peeps Party", where around 15 winners were named in the building contest centered around the Easter-time treat. Taking first place was Susanne Stillson-Strong's *Musee des Arts Peeps* and Kristen Boffo of Newport took home the Best Concept Award for her *Girl with a Peep Earring* piece. Let's take a look at some more. Here we've got *The Real Peep* by Mal McLaughlin of Sunapee and here's a fun and creative rendition of Newport's Winter Carnival, done by the Coulter-Duling Family from Newport. *Candyland* by the Deveney Family of Newport took home 2nd place in the Family Category and *Peep Chess* got 2nd in the Children's Category, created by Mary Alice Wilson of Unity. If you'd like to see these exhibits for yourself, there is still time to check them out as they will be on display until this Saturday, April 2nd. You can also see the full list of winners on the Library Arts Center website.

Thursday, March 31st. YCN News:

We begin tonight with some big news out of Newport as the town's school board voted unanimously last night to close the Towle School at the end of the current school year. The move comes as an anticipated consequence of the rejection of an \$19 million dollar operating budget earlier this month, forcing officials to realign the district's grading structure among its schools. According to town statistics, Towle School currently enrolls 131 students including 63 fifth graders and 68 sixth graders. Next year's fifth-grade class will now attend Richards Elementary School, while sixth graders will be enrolled in

Newport Middle School. The closure is expected to save the district - which was dealt a \$17.2 million dollar default budget - an estimated \$200,000 annually. And while the Wheeler Gym will remain open for athletic purposes - most notably varsity basketball games - the 2016-17 school year will mark the first time the Towle School will not be open to students since it opened its doors in 1923.

In crime news now, a 25-year-old Claremont man was arrested after a brief yet tense standoff yesterday afternoon in which officers were told the man was unstable, and had a rifle pointed in their direction. According to police, officers responded to a call shortly before 11 a.m. about a man who was repeatedly knocking at the door of a residence on Westside Avenue. Officers were unable to locate the man, who had been identified as 25-year-old Matthew Baran, and went to his home on nearby Westwood Avenue to try and locate him. Upon arrival, officers were alerted that Baran had allegedly called 911 from his home accusing the police of trying to kill him, and later called back claiming he had a rifle pointed in their direction. Police say officers then established a perimeter and communicated with Baran before a family member was finally able to confirm that there were no firearms in the home. Baran was arrested shortly before 12:30 p.m., and was scheduled to be arraigned today.

Over in Cornish, police are still searching for a suspect alleged to have stolen a car in Windsor, Vermont before crashing it into a home on Route 12 near the Cornish-Windsor Covered Bridge earlier this month. According to police, a green Jeep Wrangler was reported stolen from Main Street in Windsor shortly after 8:30 p.m. the night of March 16th. Some 20 minutes later, officers from the Cornish and Claremont police departments, as well as New Hampshire State Police, responded to an accident on Route 12A in which the vehicle was discovered crashed into a home. Police were unable to locate the driver after a lengthy search of the area. Eyewitnesses in Windsor provided a description of the suspect, who is accused of fleeing an accident in that town before eventually crashing in Cornish. The investigation into the sequence of events remains ongoing, and New Hampshire State Police are asking anyone with information to contact them at 603-358-3333.

And now an update on a story we brought you yesterday, it is official. The Brattleboro Select board officially voted last night to relocate the town's police station from the Municipal Center downtown to a building owned by the Brattleboro Reformer on 62 Black Mountain Road. A decision was necessary by March 31 in order to prevent fees upwards of \$10,000 to prevent the building from being marked, the newspaper reports. When all is said and done the town will have paid Alden Global Capital - which owns the Reformer and several other newspapers across the nation - \$720,000 dollars to acquire both the building and surrounding land. The newspaper will remain a tenant as part of the deal. The town had previously budgeted \$4.2 million dollars to go toward purchasing and upgrading the building, which will undergo major renovations. According to the Reformer, the town and company have until Aug. 10 to close on the deal.

YCN News: there is some turmoil going on within Rockingham's municipal government. Details when we come back.

We're back with Vermont news as we head down the Connecticut River to Rockingham. *The Brattleboro Reformer* is reporting that there is some turmoil within the town's governing bodies, being the Select board, the Town Manager, and the various departments in town. During Tuesday night's Select board meeting, Zoning and Planning Administrator Charles Wise read a letter aloud to the board that essentially offered support for Town Manager Willis Stearns. Thirteen of the town's department heads signed the letter which caused Select board Chairman Lamont Barnett to express his disapproval with such a letter. He explained that it wasn't the content itself that was bothersome, but rather the act of asking department heads to sign it, which could have been considered harassment if any one of the heads did not want to. This support letter of Town Manager Stearns comes after the Select board had considered defunding the Development Office back during its executive session meeting on March 1st. Barnett said he felt that the letter was a bad idea and that the town should move on.

Well any Claremont resident who was excited following the announcement of a summer concert series at Arrowhead Recreation Area now has even more to be excited about. Tickets have officially begun to be sold and what's more is that there are now specially priced presale tickets, that will save you a pretty penny if you buy them before April 15th. Currently, nearly every concert costs \$20 and the quantity of these presale-priced tickets is limited. Earlier this year, the Claremont Citizens Group, in conjunction with Arrowhead Recreation Area, launched the idea of the summer concert series, which was approved by the city. The summer-long festivities hope to bring in crowds from the surrounding towns and all proceeds would benefit Arrowhead, which is entirely volunteer run. The first event is the Battle of the Bands on May 28th, featuring six bands who will play from 11 AM to 9 PM. To check out the full schedule and to buy the tickets as part of the discounted presale price, check out www.ClaremontSummerfest.com.

Let's be honest, we can all use a helping hand sometimes but what about a helping organ? Here are the facts: being an organ donor is one of the biggest steps you can take towards saving someone's life, be it a family member or absolute stranger. Tomorrow is April 1st, which means that National Donate Life Month is coming around once again, where local, regional, and national activities take place to encourage Americans to register as organ donors and to celebrate those whose lives have been saved by a donation. Claremont residents will be getting a chance of their own to participate in this national recognition tomorrow at noon, as a ceremony is being held at Broad Street Park by organ recipient Tracy Pope. Now 61 years old, Pope received a kidney transplant from her husband four years ago, and has since made it her goal to raise awareness of this beneficial and life-saving practice. Three residents who have been affected by organ donations, as well as Mayor Charlene Lovett and City Manager Guy Santage will speak at tomorrow's event and all are invited to attend.

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YCN News

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And finally tonight, residents of Vermont and New Hampshire and especially our region have the luxury of having a wide variety of locally-owned businesses to enjoy. Just recently, residents of Warner had three of their local gems recognized by a statewide magazine. *The Hippo*, New Hampshire's largest circulation weekday publication, published each Thursday, announced the winners for the 2016 Reader's Picks for a wide variety of categories. Most importantly, in the category of Best Coffee in the greater Concord Area, Schoodac's Coffee & Tea on 1 East Main Street took first place. In addition, MainStreet BookEnds on 16 East Main Street took home top spot in the Best Bookstore category, also in the greater Concord Area. A third Warner business, that being The School House Cafe, won as the Best Breakfast around. For the full list, check out www.HippoPress.com and congratulations to these local businesses on these awards.
