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Big game FAQs. **B1**



NATION & WORLD, B3

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CONCORD MONITOR



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CONCORD

Clegg trial set for July

He could face life in prison if convicted in April killings of Steve and Wendy Reid

By **JAMIE L. COSTA**
Monitor staff

A judge set a trial date in July for Logan Clegg, who is accused of fatally shooting retired Concord couple Steve and Wendy Reid when they went for a walk near their home in April.

Clegg, 27, appeared in-person be-

fore Judge John Kissinger at the Merrimack County Superior Court on Monday, handcuffed and wearing an orange jumpsuit. He was ushered to his seat by county police where he remained silent during the hearing.

Clegg, who was taken into custody in October, faces charges of second-degree murder and other crimes related to the April homicides. He entered a not guilty plea ahead of his hearing Monday and asserted his right to a speedy trial, which was set

SEE **CLEGG A3**



Logan Clegg gets led into the courtroom for his arraignment at Merrimack County Superior Court in Concord on Monday. He is facing homicide charges in the shooting deaths of Steve and Wendy Reid in April.

DAVID LANE / Union Leader

HOUSING

Grant fund spurs projects

Three projects in Concord would create 152 units, with 138 to be considered 'affordable'

By **MICHAELA TOWFIGHI**
Monitor staff

Three housing projects in Concord will add to the city's affordable housing stock, with funding grants from InvestNH, the \$100 million statewide fund to accelerate development.

Developers at the three Concord projects - on Sheep Davis Road, 195 Pembroke Road and the second phase of Penacook Landing - are set to build 152 units, in the next 18 months. Nine out of 10 of those units will be considered "affordable," which is higher than the statewide average.

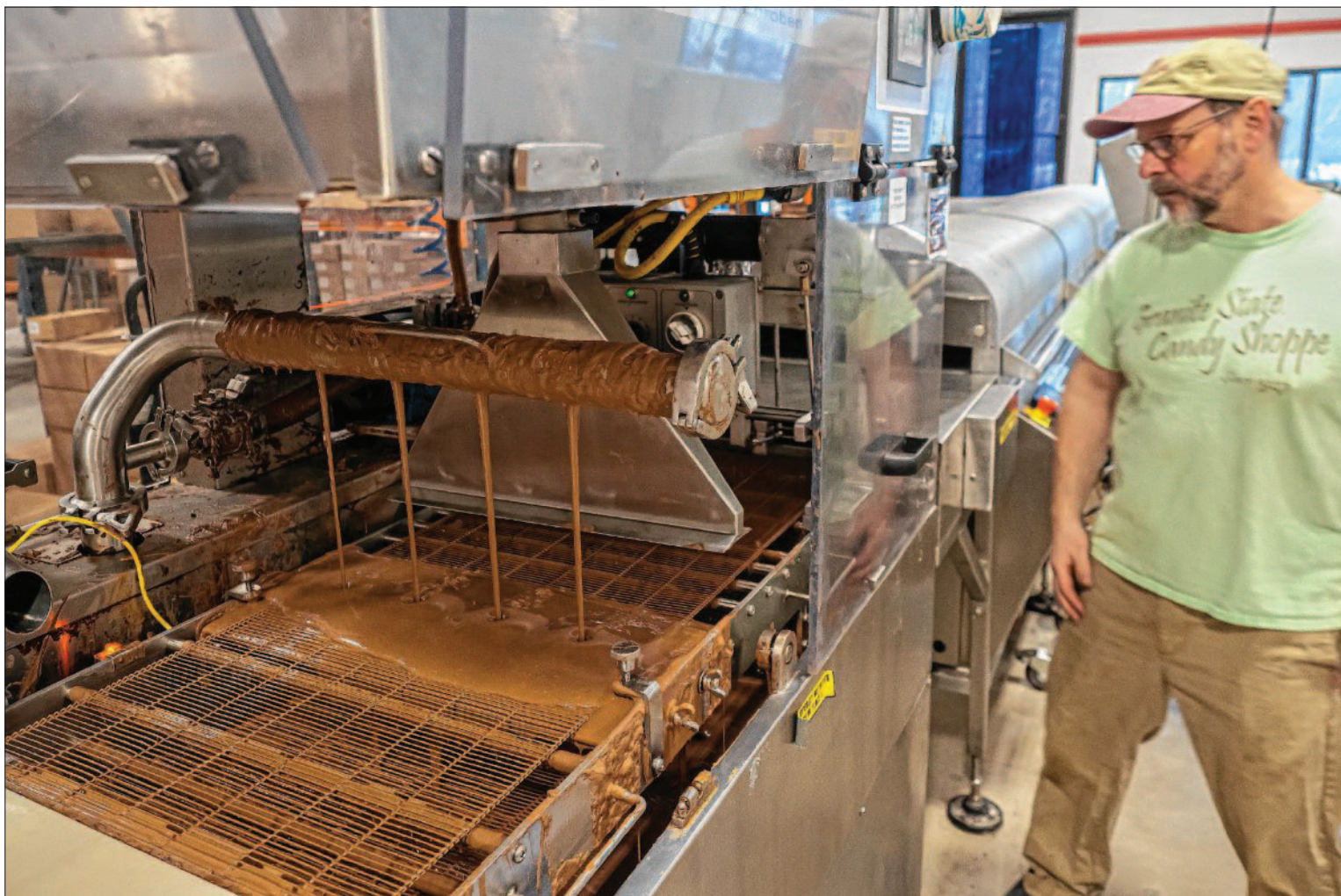
In total, the \$100 million fund to help build affordable housing, is set to accelerate the construction of 1,472 units statewide. Just over 60 percent of these units will be affordable, meaning their rent will be restricted based on median area income levels.

For the projects housed in Concord, all of the 84 units at the 195 Pembroke Road development will be

SEE **HOUSING A4**

GRANITE STATE CANDY SHOPPE:

Warren Street institution staying put as business opens production facility on Hall Street



Jeff Bart, owner of the Granite State Candy Shoppe, stands by one of the line machines where milk chocolate is dropped onto the top of a center filling at the new location for expanded production on Hall Street.

GEOFF FORESTER photos / Monitor staff

A SWEET EXPANSION

By **RAY DUCKLER**
Monitor columnist

Jeff Bart, owner of one of the sweetest establishments in Concord, has heard some of his customers are worried his Granite State Candy Shoppe is leaving Warren Street.

He says they wonder if the shop is searching for greener pastures, or a more inviting place to stimulate business.

Fear not. Sales have remained solid, so strong in fact that Bart needed more room to make his homemade fudge, candy and ice cream, outgrowing the space in the back of his Warren Street store.

He began moving his candy-making equipment to a new production facility at an industrial park on Hall Street. He now has three establishments in his stable, including storefronts in Concord and one on Elm Street in Manchester.

"We're not moving," Bart said. "That's the most important thing to know. We are not moving our original shop."

Bart comes from a Concord family with deep roots. He was born here, educated here, and his business continues to thrive here.

Bart's father and uncle attended

SEE **CANDY A2**



Chocolate hearts cool down at the new Hall Street production facility of Granite State Candy Shoppe.



DAVID BROOKS
Granite Geek

Art, science converge

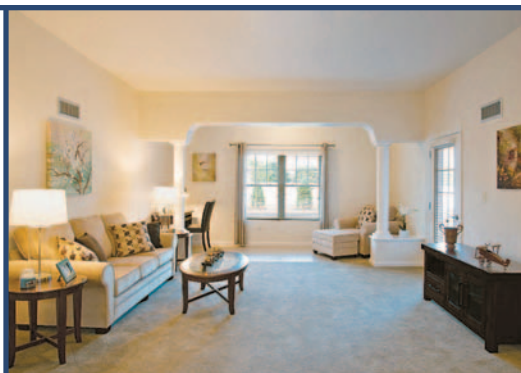
Pardon me for sounding cynical but over the years I have become dubious about claims that art can bring science to the masses. It seems to me that translating the quantitative into the qualitative usually creates little insight for the general public.

But even if that is true - and I admit it could be geek-snobbery in action - maybe I'm missing something. Maybe I'm overlooking the insight it creates for the scientists.

"For me, as a scientist, the point is how can I better do my science by working with artists, recognizing that artists have a different lens and

SEE **GRANITE GEEK A2**

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INSIDE



OPINION

BRING AN END TO THE CULTURE WARS

NH professor on the impact of divisive concepts. **Page A7**

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EDUCATION

A different approach emerges for school funding

Wilmot Democrat proposes dramatic shift in per student state spending allocation

By ETHAN DEWITT New Hampshire Bulletin

Democrats and public school advocates have pushed for years to increase the default amount the state pays public schools per student.

This year, Rep. Tom Schamberg, a Wilmot Democrat, has a simple solution: Calculate the average amount school districts pay to educate students, cut that number in half, and require the state to pay that half to school districts for each student.

The bill to do that, House Bill 334, would be transformative – and expensive. Schamberg's approach would increase the state's current \$1 billion annual education budget by another \$700 million a year, nearly doubling it.

Republicans and Democrats on the House Education Committee are skeptical.

Rep. Dave Luneau, a Hopkinton Democrat, criticized the bill as a one-size-fits-all approach that would apply a blanket increase to towns regardless of their economic demographics and property values.

"Would you agree that not every school district and student population, you know, is identical from

across the state?" Luneau asked Schamberg during a committee hearing Tuesday.

Rep. Glenn Cordelli, a Tuftonboro Republican, posed a fiscal question. "Where will the dollars come from the state budget for this?" he asked during the hearing.

Schamberg said that finding the money would be a matter of re-allocation. "It's going to take a change in the operating budget and a change in our priorities a little bit," he said. "Maybe we don't spend as much on social programs, or we reduce the amount that is spent on social programs."

Progressive lawmakers and policymakers have long searched for solutions to the state's inequities in public education funding from town to town, which have driven wide disparities in property taxes and prompted two lawsuits against the state in the past four years. But Schamberg's proposal – and the reaction to it from both parties – highlights an ongoing reality: Even with the political will, finding a funding fix is going to be complicated.

New Hampshire has paid about the same default amount of money per student to schools for decades: between \$3,000 and \$4,000, adjusted each year for inflation. In the 2003-2004 school year, that baseline number was \$3,390. In 2023, the number is \$3,866.

Public schools receive more than that \$3,866 figure for many students. They get more for each student who qualifies for free or reduced price lunches, for each student with special education needs, for each En-

glish language learning student, and for other categories. For some students, that can bring the total state funding amount thousands of dollars over the default.

But even with the additional targeted aid, the state funding does not generally come close to meeting the actual amount school districts spend per student; much of that cost is made up by local property taxes. Democrats have argued that the state is required by the New Hampshire Constitution to pay for more. Schamberg says his bill gets that done.

"As a society we have changed what we ask our schools to do, and how much these changes have cost," Schamberg said at the hearing. Under current spending patterns, his bill would give each school around \$9,000 per student, which he said would help meet those new cost burdens.

Republican members of the House Education Committee questioned why the bill would be based on the statewide average spending per pupil, when some wealthy New Hampshire towns spend relatively lavishly.

"I think we're looking at the issue of Moultonborough, we're looking at Waterville Valley – \$45,000 per kid – we're looking at Monroe, we're looking at some of those towns which had the ability to raise those dollars easily, and the others which are not anywhere near that and so then you're taking the average of these high and low," said Rep. Rick Ladd, a Haverhill Republican and the chairman of the House Education Com-

mittee.

Rep. Alicia Lekas, a Hudson Republican, had a similar objection. "The spending that a school spends and what they spend it on is determined at either school district town meeting or at the deliberative session and then the vote, right?" she said. "And it varies very differently between schools."

Luneau has a different approach to the school funding question this year. House Bill 529 would seek to help struggling cities and towns by creating two more funding categories, targeting schools whose property values are low and schools with high proportions of lower-income students. The money would be targeted, not applied across the board like Schamberg's proposal, said Luneau, the bill's sponsor.

And the approach would cost just under \$100 million a year.

Luneau said his bill is not a comprehensive fix to the problem that has vexed the Legislature for three decades. But he argued it was a proposal that could pass.

"I think at the end of the day, if there's going to be an interest in having \$100 million put towards cutting taxes, that it should be done in an equitable manner" rather than a flat-funded manner, Luneau said in an interview.

Neither of the school funding bills are necessarily destined for success, but Luneau says there is bipartisan precedent for his approach. In 2019, the Democratic-led House passed House Bill 709 with wide Republican support; the measure was added to the budget. That bill, Luneau argues,

is similar in structure to his legislation this year.

Luneau's bill this year differs from the 2019 legislation in two key respects: It would spend more money per year – \$95 million in the 2023 bill compared to about \$65 million in 2019 – and it would continue the grants into the future indefinitely. The 2019 effort was a one-time, one-year proposal.

That could clash against a Legislature interested in cutting spending and taxes and a governor who has long preferred one-time expenditures over ongoing obligations.

Luneau said he would be willing to compromise and make his bill a one-time expense, if politically necessary, though he argued against it. "If that's what we had to do to do it, then sure," he said. "But I think what school districts and what taxpayers need more than anything is predictability and sustainability. And so, when you do this stuff on a one-time basis, it may feel good for one year, but I don't know what the following year is going to look like."

But Schamberg says the ambition of his bill is meant to be a wakeup call, pointing to school funding lawsuits that could result in Supreme Court orders that require a restructuring of New Hampshire's funding formula.

"Because the court system is eventually going to make a decision – someday, whether it's in April ... or maybe next fall. But if they make a decision and it says 'You will, the Legislature of New Hampshire, you will do this amount percentage,' are we going to have the revenue?"



GEOFF FORESTER/ Monitor staff

Kate Hayden gets ready to make some chocolate hearts at the new Hall Street production facility of Granite State Candy Shoppe.

Candy shop expands production

CANDY FROM A1

Concord High. They grew up on Dunklee Street. Bart lived on Merrimack Street. His mother still lives there, in the house where Bart grew up.

Bart's grandfather, Peter Bart, moved from Greece to Lawrence, Mass., in 1909 and worked for a candy maker, learning the nuances of making great fudge. A few years later, in 1927, Peter founded Granite State Candy and moved into its current home, the brick building on Warren Street.

That became available af-

ter the Concord Fencing Club vacated the space. Bart called the discovery "serendipitous."

Peter's sons, Costa and George, ran the show after Peter's retirement, and the torch was eventually passed to Costa's sons, Jeff and Mike.

Sadly, Mike died suddenly from a heart attack in 2015 when he was in his 40s. The brothers were 18 months apart in age, business partners, and friends.

"We worked together for many years," Jeff Bart said. "We were close. There is a great deal of pride associated with my family. Mike would

have been thrilled for us to go to this next place. For certain."

The Granite State website says that some of their grandfather's original recipes are still used. So is some of the old equipment, dating back 100 years.

The heavy lifting from Warren Street to Hall Street was necessary for the company's growth.

"Yes, business has been fine," Bart said, "and the Manchester shop has seen growth."

He hopes his new 6,000 square foot manufacturing space finished this summer, the slowest time of the year to sell chocolate and candy. That will give Bart a chance to settle in, see what works, create a rhythm, a routine.

"It has been progressively difficult for years to produce enough products in this space," Bart said of the downtown Concord location. "We have contracts for carpentry work and plumbing. This is a local effort to get us to a place where we can move to, and on short notice."

And remember, his allegiance to Concord remains sweet.

"We're not leaving here," Bart said. "This store will always be here and always be open."

Art and science converge

GRANITE GEEK FROM A1

a different way of looking at things," said Lindsey Rustad, a researcher and team leader at the USDA's Northern Research Station in Durham who has spent decades studying at the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, where some of New Hampshire's most intriguing science has been done.

To explain, she pointed to work by Marty Quinn, a composer and computer scientist who creates animated art among other things.

"He was looking at patterns in different data and he had coded wind direction data at Hubbard Brook," she recalled. "He looked at it and colors went from dark blue to white to dark blue to white – just a really regular pattern. He came to me and said Lindsey, what's this regular pattern? We looked at it a little bit closer and damned if it wasn't mountain-valley breezes, called katabatic winds" flowing through the central valley of the 8,700-acre experimental forest.

Katabatic winds are pushed by rising and sinking air masses as each day's sunset or sunrise, sweeping across the landscape, changes air temperature in one area before it does so in another. "It is like the tides, except it's an air mass bathing the valley on a cyclical basis."

Considering that Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest has been the target of studies by literally hundreds of scientists since it was established in 1955, you'd think this pattern would have been well understood but Rustad says the artwork was a revelation. By coincidence Eric Kelsey, a research professor at Plymouth State University, was observing the patterns at the same time with scientific data, "and has since developed a program about katabatic breezes," Rustad said, showing how the artistic and the scientific approach can converge.

As a more general example, Rustad, a biogeochemist



A still from "WaterViz, A Water Cycle Visualization Tool," an interactive work that is part of the exhibition.

Courtesy



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and ecologist, remembers walking in the woods with Xavier Cortada, a Florida artist.

I think I know how things work ... and I was trying to explain to him how water moves through the forest, using the standard textbook model. Xavier kept asking these annoying questions – 'Lindsey, look at the dew on the leaf, where does that fit into your model?' 'Lindsey, here's a little pool of water that doesn't seem connected to anything – how does that quantify and fit into the model?," Rustad recalled.

"I was seeing the hydrologic world through my academic lens. I realized it was much more complicated than my reductionistic model."

Perhaps it's not surprising this happened at Hubbard Brook, which has long emphasized an art-and-science connection, sending artists out into the field with researchers and joining C.P. Snow's two cultures in frequent conversation.

Some of the results are on display now at Plymouth State University's Museum of the White Mountains. The exhibit, "Field Station: Art-Science in the White Mountains," brings together works by many artists who have had residencies at Hubbard Brook. They range from traditional paintings to an inter-

active audio/visual examination of the many ways water flows through something as complicated as the northern forest.

The exhibit runs through Feb. 10; it's free but advance online registration is required via www.plymouth.edu/wmw.

The 8,700-acre Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest on the southern edge of the White Mountains, stretching west from Thornton, is one of a series of long-term ecological research (LTER) sites around the country to study various ecosystems. It is most famous for being the site where acid rain was discovered but has hosted work resulting in literally thousands of published research papers, with titles from "Song rate variation in the black-throated blue warbler" to "Using C-13 nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy to study northern hardwood tissues" to the alarming-sounding "Why has Hubbard Brook Forest stopped growing?"

As the name implies, LTERs like Hubbard Brook are places to do ecosystem studies providing insight over years or decades or, with any luck, centuries. Maybe that explains the openness to art: an emphasis on unusual time scales might make people more open to unusual viewpoints.

As for me, I promise to be more open, too. The next time somebody turns the scientific world-view into poetry, music, dance or painting, I will embrace the work and try to learn from it.

Unless it's mime – then, forget it. I have to draw the line somewhere.

CORRECTION

A story on Page A1 of Saturday's Concord Monitor should have said Batulo's Kitchen will be selling locally-famous hand-held meat and veggie pies. The Monitor regrets the error.

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