NH AG issues Medicare phish scam alert • A3

Red Sox, Fisher Cats to open at home • B3

"There is nothing so powerful as truth"
DANIEL WEBSTER

NEW HAMPSHIRE
UNION LEADER

"FROM COÖS TO THE SEA"

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Tuesday, April 9, 2024

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ECLIPSE MANIA IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

GAWKING ON SUNSHINE

DAVID LANE/UNION LEADER

Jacob Todd of Berwick, Maine, looks up at the sun in full eclipse at the Lancaster Fairgrounds on Monday afternoon.

Granite Staters near and far took a shine — totally — to April 2024's sun-sation

By Michael Cousineau
Union Leader Staff

LANCASTER — First came the cooler temperatures, then the dimmed day and finally cheers and applause from eclipse gazers at the Lancaster Fairgrounds when the moon totally blocked out the sun for less than a minute on Monday.

"Scary and sad and magnificent all at the same time," Boston's Shirley Lee said after her daughter, Ella, convinced her to drive five hours to experience the total solar eclipse.

Lee, whose daughter was visiting from Los Angeles, said the eclipse made it feel "like we're in a dust cloud."

Thousands packed the fairgrounds parking lot looking to enjoy the eclipse while others threw down blankets and coats on the snowless grass downtown to gaze at the sun.

"Just incredible, worth the trip," said Greg Pollock, of Deerfield. "Maybe we'll fly around the world for the next one."

► **More eclipse coverage:**
Sun fun at Derry library • **A3;** More photos • **A10, and on UnionLeader.com**

► See **Eclipse,** Page A10

DAVID LANE/UNION LEADER

Anne-Marie Armstrong of Scituate, Mass., speaks with a reporter after reserving an early-morning spot at the Lancaster Fairgrounds for eclipse viewing on Monday.

Students from the dental hygiene program at NHTI in Concord take a break from their patients to watch the eclipse with their professors' blessing. They weren't disappointed.

ALLEGRA BOVERMAN/ UNION LEADER

Colebrook's path of totality for the spectacle didn't disappoint

By John Koziol
Union Leader Correspondent

COLEBROOK — On a perfect day of weather, the total eclipse of 2024 lived up to its hype, leaving beautiful memories for a lifetime.

Colebrook was among the many communities in Coos County in the eclipse's path of totality, and one visitor said it was the only one that did a comprehensive job of welcoming visitors.

A new resident of Exeter, Deirdre Thomas came to Colebrook along with her husband, Mark, and their two female Rhodesian ridgebacks, Zola and Rey, because the town on its website offered multiple parking and viewing places, most of them free.

"Really it came down to weather,"

► See **Colebrook,** Page A10

CLAREMONT

Records: Rep. threatened to kill cops, rape chief's wife before leaving PD

■ Threats allegedly made after former officer Jonathan Stone was suspended for "inappropriate" relationship with teen.

By Kevin Landrigan
Union Leader Staff

CONCORD — Republican state Rep. Jonathan Stone lost his job as a Claremont police officer in 2006 after investigators said he threatened to go on a "postal" shooting spree that included killing his police chief and raping the man's wife.

Investigators said Stone made the violent threats within earshot of several police officers after he was suspended five days for a yearlong "inappropriate" personal relationship with a 15-year-old girl who went to Stevens High School.

"Stone's conduct goes so far beyond what is expected of a professional police officer that only appropriate resolution is his removal from office," wrote Claremont Police Detective Capt. Colby Casey, who has since died.

For years, Stone fought to keep the records of Claremont PD's internal investigations secret.

Last month, the state Supreme Court ordered those files be released in response to Right-to-Know Law requests by the New Hampshire Union Leader, other media and the American Civil Liberties Union of New Hampshire.

Claremont Police Capt. Mark Chase, now retired, opened the investigation in February 2006 into Stone's relationship with the girl, whose name was redacted from the records.

The two had a personal relationship for about a year, and it "progressed to the point where they call each other almost on a daily basis for hours at a time," Chase wrote.

Stone and the girl denied they had a sexual relationship.

► See **Threats,** Page A10

JONATHAN STONE

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In the markets:
S&P 500: 5,202.39
-1.95 (0.04%)

Today's Chuckle
If it really was a dog's life, we'd all be taking more naps.

A Small Prayer
Dear Lord, may we thank You for Your love and blessings every day of our lives. Amen

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