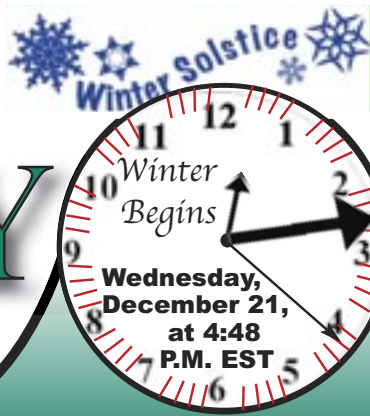


TRENDY TIMES

20 Pine Street, Woodsville, NH 03785
Phone: 603-747-2887

Email: Gary@TrendyTimes.com
Website: www.TrendyTimes.com

DECEMBER 13, 2022 VOLUME 14, NUMBER 5



Railroad Park Improvements

What happens when community members come together to take action: Magic!

On November 5th and 6th, community members from throughout the greater Haverhill area came together to connect, enjoy the beautiful weather, and take action for their community. Railroad Park, an amazing "hidden gem" for the community in downtown Woodsville was in need of a little TLC. The park sits just behind Central Street and boasts a picturesque view of the town's bridges, the historic No Mans Island, and where the Connecticut and Ammonoosuc Rivers meet.

The cleanup event was hosted by UNH Cooper-

ative Extension's Building Community Resilience Project, Hope In Haverhill. In support, community organizations including Haverhill Parks and Recreation, Haverhill Conservation Commission, Woodsville Beautification Committee and the Haverhill Area Substance Misuse Prevention Coalition worked together to sponsor and organize two workdays. Volunteers of all ages worked on a variety of projects to spruce up the park, staining fences and the information kiosk, raking, weeding, planting bulbs, replacing boards on picnic tables and benches, and clearing trails for an expanded trail and picnic area. Over 130 red tulip bulbs were planted around

the park in support of Red Ribbon Week's Plant the Promise Campaign.

"I am humbled by how much work was done to the park by people working together.....many hands do make light work" shared Sherri Sargent, Director of Haverhill Parks and Recreation.

Students from Woodsville High School's Youth Leadership Through Adventure program were also in attendance to get their hands dirty bettering their community while gaining community service hours. Each of them felt empowered being able to work toward positive change.

Thomas Martel, a Junior at WHS, spent most of the time during the cleanup working on improvements

on the newly created trail that showcases the river behind the park and will feature a few picnic areas. "It

was great to volunteer and invest time into the community. Improving the community leads to success for all and gives people the opportunities they deserve. I'm always asking, what more can I do to better the community." Tom said, "as I helped manage the trail work, I began to see all the potential the park and trails had through the progress made by the team. The history of the area needs to be shared to all." He hopes to help the



Haverhill Conservation Commission finish up the trail at railroad park and add signs and murals that share the history this coming spring.

This was only a first step as community members continue to work together to make a difference in their community. For more information on this project or others in the region, contact Joe Mitchell at jtmitchell@sau23.org or Sue Cagle at sue.cagle@unh.edu.

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TRENDY Dining Guide

Polly's Pancake Parlor

by Gary Scruton

The opportunity to go out to eat for breakfast is one that I truly do enjoy. A normal day includes making my coffee and an english muffin to start the day. But when Janice and I plan to go out for breakfast then the rules all change.

This time around it was a Sunday morning. We knew the night before that we were heading for Sugar Hill and Polly's so there was no need to set an alarm or even to get up early. So we slept in and did not even get to the phone until it was already a bit past 10:00. When I called Polly's to get on the list (a must do for whenever you plan to visit this popular establishment) I was told the wait was only 15 to 30 minutes. We were 30 minutes away, so

it sounded like the timing was going to be almost perfect.

As we drove past the parking lot we saw a couple of spots near the door so we pulled up to that part of the parking area and even as we pulled in another car was leaving. We walked in the door and the host took our name and handed me one of their call back units and said it should be just a minute. We had barely gotten back out to the foyer when the buzzer sounded and we returned and were led to a table in the middle of the restaurant where we could see the great view out the windows and watch the staff cooking as well.

As we were seated we were informed to look at the chalkboards for the day's specials. As Janice read them off to me I decided right then and there that I did not need to look at the menu.

Our waiter (Chris) soon arrived and with a flourish announced that he was to be our waiter for the day. He asked about beverages and we both asked for coffee. He asked if we

also wanted water and with confirmation brought them to both of us.

Janice did look over the menu for a bit and decided on Kathy's Combo meal. Two eggs (scrambled and well done), three pancakes (the special of day peppermint Bark), toast (Cinnamon raisin) and bacon.

My choice came directly from that special board. Egnog french toast (I also chose the Cinnamon raisin bread). Upon Chris' question I added a side of sausage patties.

One of the aspects of any eatery that I notice is how the staff is dressed. Some places have uniforms so every staff member looks similar. At Polly's many staff members do wear Polly's T-shirts, but it does not appear to be mandatory. Chris was wearing a tie dyed Polly's T-shirt, shorts plus his apron while others did not have an apron and ran the gambit of attire. It was colorful.

Chris did stop to refill our coffee cups and tell us that our breakfast was on his griddle. Very shortly thereafter he delivered our

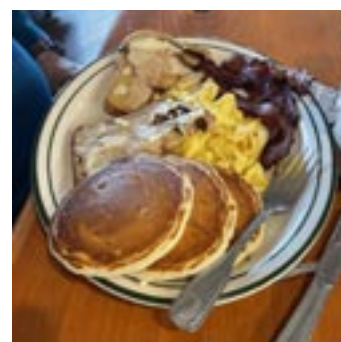
meals and we got to dig in. On the table was a small pitcher (approx 3/4 cup) of maple syrup along with some maple spread and of course salt and pepper, creamer, sugar etc. Janice and I took turns with the maple syrup and still did not finish it all.

It took some doing but Janice did clear her plate. She is somewhat fussy about her eggs which is why she asked for them well done, and they were just the way she likes them. The pancakes, she said, tasted like someone had ground up candy canes and tossed in some chocolate chips. A real taste treat.

My french toast was also tasty and the sausage patties had just a hint of spiciness to them. The four slices were plenty to fill me up.



Another aspect of going out to eat that I enjoy is watching the many members of the staff bustling around doing their jobs. At Polly's there are, of course, plenty of wait-staff, but also a person to seat folks as they come in, a couple of bus boys to clear off tables, a cashier to ring you out when you take your bill to the front, and of course the person answering the phone, put-



ting your name on the list, and getting you in the door and seated. Add to these the behind the scenes kitchen staff, the dishwashers, the folks putting away all the clean dishes and you've got a full house and great service.

With our meals done, Chris brought over our slip and told us to take our time. We did and finally moved toward the register to pay our bill of \$37.43. Janice was leaving a cash tip on the table, but saw Chris one last time and handed it to him directly.



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WHS Yearbook - “Class of 72 History” Addendum

by *Becky Hastings Mackin*

Five decades and a few months ago Woodsville High School set forth on this continent – the graduated Class of ‘72 upon completion of a high school education and readiness to take on the world. Since then we have gained a greater understanding of life’s celebrations and challenges learned through our families, friends, careers, interests, and experiences.

Now after 67+ years of life, we are scattered across the country and around the world - with gray hair, wrinkles, resiliency and adaptability to the world around us; all well versed in life knowing that we are no longer spring chickens as we look forward to retirement, (if we haven’t already retired).

As we continue learning to navigate healthcare systems, downsizing, technology, and getting older, we do not know what is to come, but shall soon find out. It is for us, the Class of ‘72, to continue building on life’s memories and lessons from the past as we move into the “Golden Years” of leisure, travel, volunteering, grandchildren, and all the things we never seemed to have time to do.

Let us always remember our high school days - a bigger school, new people from neighboring towns to meet and lessons we learned. So many highlights (and stories) - girls allowed to wear slacks in lieu of mini-

skirts after petitioning the School Board, saying good-by to our BMU friends and hello to our new friends from Haverhill Academy, completion of the “new” wing with combination lockers, the first high school computer, Class M Basketball champs, music and theater productions, (Wizard of Oz, Guys and Dolls, etc) Winter Carnivals, learning to drive, and the first WHS outdoor graduation to name a few.

Although no 50th class reunion brought us together in person this year, let it not be forgotten that our goals, our accomplishments, and our aspirations shall be remembered forever; and ultimately we cherish our friendships, hopes for the future, and the little things in life that have made the world a better place.

Editor’s Note: I am also a member of the WHS Class of ‘72. (part of the group that invaded from Haverhill Academy). To my fellow classmates, if you would like to work on setting up a gathering in 2023 please feel free to contact me.

NH Conservation Districts Announce 2023 Round of Climate Resilience Grant Program

North Haverhill, NH The 10 New Hampshire Conservation Districts are thrilled to announce the second grant round of the NH Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant! This grant opportunity seeks to support farmers in meeting extreme weather events, frequent and prolonged droughts, and increased pest pressures that are challenging NH farms. This will be done through reducing the impact of agriculture on climate change (mitigation) through greenhouse gas emissions reduction and carbon sequestration, and through increasing the resiliency of New Hampshire Farms in a changing climate (adaptation) while meeting farm’s conservation goals and needs.

Funds are available for projects that mitigate the impact of agriculture on climate change and enhance the on-farm adaptations to projected climate conditions. Preference will be given to projects that can demonstrate strong potential in mitigation and adaptation. The grant will provide a cost share program for

farms – grant covers up to 75% of project costs not to exceed \$10,000/farm. Farmers are responsible for covering 25% of project costs.

Please note that the grant is comprised of two different funding pools: one for regenerative and ecological practices (e.g. soil health, water efficiency, integrated pest management) and one for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. Each pool has limited funds and will be competitive. We will be holding an optional zoom informational session on January 9th at 6:00PM. Registration Required: <https://NHClimateGrant.ventbrite.com>

Interested in applying?

Visit Grafton County Conservation District at: www.graftonccd.org or call the District at 603 787-6973 for more information and Application. The application deadline is February 1, 2023. The mission of the NH Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant is to support and empower local farmers to build climate resilience throughout the Granite State.

Since 1945 and 1946, the ten NH Conservation Districts have promoted the conservation and responsible use of the Granite State’s natural and agricultural resources. For more information about the programs offered in Grafton County visit, <https://graftonccd.org>.



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'M' is for 'Moose' – The Newest Letter added to NH 'Moose Plate' combinations

To keep up with demand for New Hampshire's popular Conservation License Plate – fondly referred to as the "Moose Plate" – a new letter has been added to plate combinations.

"M" is the fourth letter to be part of the number/letter combinations that are used on Moose Plates. When Conservation License Plates were first issued, the letter "C," for "conservation," was part of each standard five-digit number combination. When "C" plate combinations were no longer available, "H," for "heritage," took their place followed by "P," for "preservation," in 2018.

"M" represents "Moose"

on plates currently being issued.

The Moose Plate program has raised more than \$30 million dollars since the first plates were issued in December 2000. Fourth grade students from Holderness Central School started the idea for the Moose Plate program in 1993; 2023 will mark the 25th anniversary of the legislation that officially established the program.

Every dollar raised through the sales of Moose Plates goes directly to designated programs that support a wide variety of conservation, heritage and preservation programs in New Hampshire, including studying

rare native plants, working to protect endangered species, securing conservation easements, preserving publicly owned historic properties and artifacts, and planting wildflowers along New Hampshire highways. All 10 New Hampshire counties have benefitted from Moose Plate funds.

Moose Plates may be purchased at city and town clerks' offices when registering a car or truck. The annual cost for a Moose Plate is \$30; the first year requires a standard \$8 plate purchase fee. Vanity Moose Plates and combination Moose / New Hampshire State Parks plates are also available for additional charges.

Granite State artist Jim Collins' illustration of a moose won a design contest for the plate, which also includes New Hampshire's motto "Live Free or Die" and a stacked "C" and "H" to the right of the moose.

Detailed information about the Moose Plate program, including a map of projects receiving funds and downloadable gift card holders, can be found at mooseplate.com as well as on Facebook and Twitter.

REJOICE! White Mt. Voices Christmas Concert Returns!

The North Country's only community chamber choir, White Mountain Voices (formerly White Mts. Camerata) presents its beloved Christmas program, this year in two venues: Lancaster Congregational Church on Saturday Dec. 17 at 3 pm and Littleton Congregational Church on Sunday Dec. 18 at 3 p.m. Both venues have handicapped access.

This year, the area's newest choral ensemble presents a perfect Baroque gem, Magnificat by Durante paired with the 20th-century masterwork, Rejoice in the Lamb by Benjamin Britten. "It's the most ambitious work we've undertaken in our 6-year history" says Music Director Victoria Cole. "A magnificent poem, challenging driving rhythms, and a work-out for our organist – that's the Britten. We're lucky to have or-

ganist Joseph Hansalik able to play this musically sophisticated piece." The program also includes beloved carols and anthems of the season, plus the ever-popular sing-along. Who doesn't love singing Irving Berlin's White Christmas in a packed church?

Entrance is with suggested donation of \$15. Under 18 free. Find us on Facebook at white mountains camerata or on the web at www.whitemountaincamerata.org. Questions? Contact Music Director Victoria Cole at 603-823-8125.

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Haverhill Library Celebrates Grant Awards

Governor Sununu today announced \$4.3 million in matching grants to support thirty-four land conservation and historic preservation projects across the state by the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). The grants will assist municipalities, non-profit organizations and community groups in rehabilitating 17 historic structures and permanently conserving more than 2,700 acres of farm, timber, and ecologically significant land in all ten counties of the state, including Haverhill Library.

Haverhill Library has received a \$75,000 grant award from LCHIP and two supplemental grants of \$10,000 each from The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation and the Samuel P. Hunt Foundation to support Phase 2 of our project to rehabilitate our historic building built in 1840. Each of these organizations also contributed to our Phase 1 project successfully completed this past spring. Phase 1 repaired our foundations and first floor framing; Phase 2 will address repairs to our slate roof, and external masonry and woodwork.

Without these repairs our library was endangered.

“While we are delighted to receive these grants, they total less than half the expected cost of our project,” said Joe Kirkpatrick, President of the Haverhill Library Association. “We need to raise an equal amount in donations and additional grants. We have a number of grant applications pending, and, just this month, we mailed our appeal letter out to patrons. As you can imagine, we are anxiously awaiting the response.”

LCHIP grant recipients are required to match each dollar contributed by LCHIP with a minimum of one additional dollar, and to complete the funded projects according to the program’s rigorous standards. This year’s awards of \$4.3 million will be matched by more than \$15 million in funding from other public and private sources, infusing a total of more than nineteen million dollars into the state’s economy in direct project activity. Recipients will be expected to complete the funded work within two years. A list of previously completed LCHIP-funded projects can be found at www.LCHIP.org.

Support Animals By Buying Raffle Tickets

EAST MONTPELIER, VT: Central Vermont Humane Society is thrilled to announce it’s 2022 Holiday Raffle to the community!

This year’s raffle is filled with a variety of items, all donated by local artists and businesses who share Central Vermont Humane Society’s (CVHS) mission to save animals. This means that 100% of the proceeds goes directly to vital services for the animals!

Items range from handmade quilts and jewelry, gift cards to local restaurants and businesses, to a one night stay for 2 in deluxe accommodations at the famous Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, VT!

There is something for everyone!

Tickets are only \$3 each, with discounts for multiple tickets. The more tickets you buy, the more animals CVHS can save and the more chances you have to win!

Quantity discounts are: \$20 for 8 tickets, \$30 for 15 tickets, \$40 for 22 tickets, \$50 for 30 tickets.

To download tickets and view the full list of prizes, visit <https://centralvermonthumane.org/holiday-affle/>.

Tickets can also be purchased at these locations: Twin City Subaru (142 Berlin Mall Road, Berlin, VT), 802 Toyota (30 Berlin Mall Rd, Berlin, VT), and 802 Honda (224

Paine Turnpike N, Berlin, VT).

Tickets must be mailed in to Central Vermont Humane Society, PO Box 687, Montpelier, VT 05601 by 5pm on Friday, January 5, 2023. The drawing will take place Monday, January 16, 2023. If you win, CVHS will contact you directly.

Purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win an exciting prize all while knowing your contributions are going directly to helping vulnerable animals.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Schrum, Development Manager at Central Vermont Humane Society at development@centralvermonthumane.org.

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Calendar of Events

EVENTS FROM LOCAL NON-PROFITS, SCHOOLS AND TOWNS. *PRESENTED FREE BY TRENDY TIMES.*

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26 -
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11**
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT THE
JOSEPH SMITH BIRTHPLACE
4:00 - 9:00 PM
357 LDS Lane, South Royalton, VT

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 -
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15**
SANTA TAKING PHONE CALLS
6:00 - 8:00 PM
Children in Lisbon, Lyman, Landaff

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14
ROSS-WOOD POST #20 AMERICAN LEGION
MONTHLY MEETING -
6:00 PM
4 Ammonoosuc Street, Woodsville

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16
BROOKS HUBBARD
7:30pm. www.courtstreetarts.org.
Alumni Hall, Haverhill See Article on Page 6

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17
WHITE MT. VOICES CHRISTMAS CONCERT
3:00 PM See Article on Page 4
Lancaster Congregational Church

ANNUAL LEGION CHRISTMAS PARTY
5:00 PM Happy Hour
6:00 PM Dinner
7:00 PM Yankee Gift Swap
Legion Home, 4 Ammonoosuc St., Woodsville

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18
ACOUSTIC MUSIC JAM
12:00 - 3:00 PM
Clifford Memorial Building, Woodsville

WHITE MT. VOICES CHRISTMAS CONCERT
3:00 PM See Article on Page 4
Littleton Congregational Church

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19
HAVERHILL SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 PM
Clifford Memorial Building, Woodsville

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20
THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE
6:30 PM See Article on Page 6
First Congregational Church of Littleton

SUNDAY-SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 - 25
Hanukkah Candlelighting in Bethlehem
5:00 PM (4:00 pm Dec 23)
eileenregen@gmail.com
Bethlehem Town Hall

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24
Saturday, December 24th
A CHRISTMAS IN SONG" CELEBRATION
6:00 PM phone: jo anne at 603-787-6658
Bethany Church, Route 25, Pike, NH

EVERY THURSDAY
WORKING ON WELLNESS
6:00 PM
Monroe Public Library

EVERY FRIDAY
SHARE THE HARVEST TABLE
NOON - 7:00 PM
Baldwin Memorial Library, Wells River.

EVERY SUNDAY
BETHANY CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICES
9:00 AM "the church set apart on the hill"
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day and Thursday afternoons
1:00 – 2:00 PM
PICKLEBALL
Tuesday & Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM Sat-
urday mornings at 9:00-10:30 AM
LINE DANCING every Wednesday evening
6:00 - 7:00 PM

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The Longest Night Service

Coming Friday night,
December 16 at 7:30 PM
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with artists such as
Stephen Kellog, KT Tun-
stall and performed with

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James Taylor's band. He
has become a powerful
songwriter, singer and
performer. In 2015 he
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awhile and now with his
family is back in New Eng-
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Tuesday, December 20, at
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lighting to remember
loved ones, and places
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The Regifters By Old Church Theater

The final production of the season by Old Church Theater brought a few regrets to me. First was an expected one. The dates of this performance fell within the dates of our publication. Therefore I do not have the opportunity to encourage others to attend this show. I can merely tell you about the show and tell you that if you missed the Regifters then you missed a funny, well portrayed, and very seasonal production.

Though the actors from Old Church Theater are not professionals, they do have enough experience to know not to step on the laughter from the audience. And this show had plenty of that. From the snarky remarks aimed at their partners among the first three couples, to the not so friendly concerns about friends not traveling to their proposed destinations, to charts and graphs about who gave what to whom, there were plenty of out right laughs as well as many more subtle references.

Of course the whole point of the play was that the value of a gift may well not be the price one paid for it, but rather the meaning behind the presentation of the gift. In this case a gift from a couple, never seen, from Germany, who obviously have different values and traditions than the first three couples (and Mom) who we do see on stage.

IN the end it is the youngest couple that show their elders what Christmas and the act of giving should mean.

My second regret with this production was that when we arrived for the

second performance of the show, Saturday, December 3, we were turned away at the door. Upon inquiry we were told that due to an unforeseen family emergency one actress was unable to perform. We were offered complimentary tickets for another show as were any others who also showed up. We actually went back the next day and were part of a very large Sunday afternoon crowd. This crowd saw two performers in different roles. Each having the courage to learn a part and perform it with less than 24 hours notice. There was certainly no regret on the part of the crowd when it came to their performances.

My third regret was that this is indeed the last performance of the season for Old Church Theater. There is hope that a winter performance will take place, but we will all need to stand by and see if or when that will happen.

One final regret is that OCT is not yet back to their home base across the street from the Bradford Academy. But they are still working hard to return, and we wish them all the best in that endeavor.

In the end, there was plenty of reason to be thankful for another great production from Old Church Theater.

For the fifth year in a row, the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce, the regional organization serving the tri-county area, will not raise its dues, despite inflationary and economic pressures. Chamber trustees decided at its most recent board meeting that it was important to show support and solidarity with the businesses of the Kingdom by not increasing its membership rates.

While the overall inflation rate for the past five years has been 3.5 percent, the 2022 rate rose sharply to 7.40 percent, raising expenses for the region and chamber as well, said Darcie McCann, the chamber's longtime executive director. The inflation rising to its highest point in 40 years was a major factor in the board keeping the dues at the 2018 level.

"This decision hasn't come without sacrifices on the chamber's part," said McCann, noting the organization has yet to hire a new employee since Jenn Garand passed away in 2020. "The chamber trustees believe it is important to set an example for our businesses, that we must continue to tighten our belts, as they have as well, during these challenging economic times."

McCann noted that the chamber works very closely with its members on making its dues the most affordable they can

NEK Chamber Not Raising Its Dues In 2023

be each year, reviewing the number of employees to realize cost savings on rates, offering workable payment plans, giving discounts to those paying in the first quarter and offering discounts and even dues forgiveness for those experiencing severe economic duress.

"We have always made it very clear to our members that we are not just there for them for the good times but also for the more difficult challenges as well," she said. The director noted the chamber has assisted more than 60 businesses, alone, this year through its newly established Business Assistance Center.

"Our mission is to assist and strengthen not only the businesses of the Kingdom but the overall economic vitality of the area," said McCann. The organization continues to work very diligently on workforce and economic development issues, legislative concerns affecting the region, sup-

porting employee recruitment and retention efforts as well as tourism marketing and promotion of the Kingdom.

The chamber hopes 2023 will be a year that the organization can get back on track with a number of its usual events returning to the docket, including its upcoming monthly legislative breakfast series, annual meeting, Business Celebration, fall festival, as well as a host of other planned promotions and activities. This includes more planned partnerships with the Heart of Vermont area (greater Hardwick region), following the merger with the NEK Chamber in 2021.

For more information on the Northeast Kingdom Chamber, contact the organization at 802-748-3678/626-5594, director@nekchamber.com or drop by its office (appointments recommended) at 78 Mathewson House Circle on the Lyndon Institute campus in Lyndon Center.

Scott Borthwick
Manager

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6:00 PM Dinner

7:00 PM Yankee

Christmas Swap

(Please limit gift to
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All Legion Family Members,
plus bona fide guests are invited.



Plymouth State University Teaching Lecturer Completes Fulbright Fellowship in the Country of Georgia

PLYMOUTH, N.H. – Plymouth State University (PSU) English teaching lecturer and acclaimed writer, translator, librettist, creator, director, curator, performer, and producer Niloufar Talebi recently returned to the U.S. after six months abroad as a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Fellow affiliated with Ilia State University in the country of Georgia and researching her next book.

Talebi has been a teaching lecturer at PSU since 2015 where she teaches the popular course, "Writing and the Creative Process." Although it is technically an English elective, Talebi assigns various creative exercises designed to guide students in discovering their creativity and the ways in which their unique processes work, with the goal of helping students develop critical thinking skills to serve them in all future endeavors. Talebi did several readings and presentations during her Fulbright tenure at Ilia State University as well as at Writers' House of Georgia, the Tbilisi International Book Festival and the Tbilisi International Festival of Literature.

"Georgian students and audiences are highly

interested in the American ways of thinking, our culture of entrepreneurship, and our international outreach," said Talebi.

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program is a competitive program that expands perspectives through academic and professional advancement and cross-cultural dialogue. The program offers over 800 awards in more than 135 countries for U.S. citizens to teach, conduct research and carry out professional projects around the world. College and university faculty, as well as artists and professionals from a wide range of fields can join over 400,000 Fulbrighters who have come away with enhanced skills, new connections, and greater mutual understanding.

"The ability to think critically is essential to everything we do," said Talebi. "I present my students with scenarios from everyday life to demonstrate how our thought processes influence outcomes."

Talebi is a British-born, Iranian American, author and multidisciplinary artist. She is the author of *Self-Portrait in Bloom* (l'Aleph, March 28, 2019), which breaks with the



Plymouth State University teaching lecturer and acclaimed multidisciplinary artist Niloufar Talebi (shown in a photo at Tbilisi's Mushtaid garden, the former home of a 19th-century Persian religious leader in Georgia) recently returned to the U.S. after six months abroad as a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Fellow affiliated with Ilia State University in the country of Georgia and researching her next book. Photo credit 27xIIIa.

memoir form and presents a portrait of the Iranian poet Ahmad Shamlou and his poetry in her award-winning translation. *Self-Portrait in Bloom* is used in the classroom to teach cross-genre and hybrid writing. Talebi's related opera project, *Abraham in Flames* in collaboration with composer Aleksandra Vrebalov and director Roy Rallo, and a TEDx Berkeley talk are part of the multidisciplinary project inspired by the life and work of Ahmad Shamlou that in-

cludes *Self-Portrait in Bloom*. The opera premiered in San Francisco in May 2019 and landed on the San Francisco Chronicle's "Best in Classical Music Performances of 2019" list.

"I went to Georgia to write a book that I had planned for some time and which I am still working on, but the experience sparked inspiration for another book which has been gushing out of me," said Talebi. "Being in Georgia triggered the missing element that is connecting all the threads that will go into this book." This new work examines how the notion of Home is

often exploited as a form of othering in the guise of inclusion.

Talebi will be in conversation about her work in progress with the artist and photographer Kija Lucas – whose recent exhibition centers around her search for Home as a mixed-race American – during a virtual event at the San Francisco Public Library.

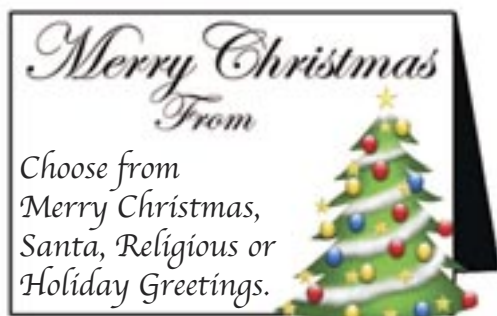
Talebi resides in the San Francisco Bay Area, and she spent time in New Hampshire during the summers of her college years.

For information about Plymouth State University, visit www.plymouth.edu.

The December 23, 2022 issue of Trendy Times will feature Holiday Greeting cards from many area businesses and organizations.



Deadline for Ads is Wednesday, December 21



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Granite VNA Names Brita Murch Human Resources Director

CONCORD, N.H. – Granite VNA, formerly Concord Regional VNA and Central NH VNA & Hospice, has named Brita Murch Director of Human Resources. In this role, she will oversee team member recruitment and experience, including developing, implementing, and evaluating ongoing human resource programs and initiatives to support employee engagement and retention.

“Creating the best possible team member experience helps us to provide the highest quality care to our patients and families,” said Sarah DeFalco, chief human resource officer, Granite VNA. “Brita brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in recruitment and retention, as well as a strong commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, all of which will prove invaluable to our agency.”

Prior to joining Granite VNA, Brita served as human resources manager for Results Physiotherapy, where she led the company’s talent acquisition team, collaborated with senior leadership on



Granite VNA, formerly Concord Regional VNA and Central NH VNA & Hospice, has named Brita Murch, Director of Human Resources.

cultural and engagement initiatives, and provided guidance and education on retention, on-boarding, performance reviews, leadership, training, and federal/state legal regulations. She also was instru-

mental in creating Results Physiotherapy’s first chartered Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.



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Volume 14 Number 5
December 13, 2022
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Someone you should know

Rachael Evelyn Booth...An odyssey of courage, survival, and triumph

by Marianne L. Kelly

"Star Light, Star Bright,
First Star I see tonight,
I wish I may, I wish I might,
Have the wish I wish to-
night:

"I wish I was a girl."

Thus begins the odyssey of a troubled young boy who, on long summer nights, when clouds did not obscure his view, wished on the first star he saw from a hill he called his "magical place". Could this be the night the star would grant his most fervent wish?

Imagine, you, Ricky Eugene Thompson, knowing at age five, that you were born in the wrong body. That you preferred baking, doing laundry, and other "women's work" with your mom, much to the consternation and dismay of your dad. You had no interest in becoming a jock.

Imagine feeling jealous of your pregnant wife, because you wanted that life to be growing inside your body. Imagine fathering two children, and finally after a suicide attempt at age 39, decided at age 40 you could no longer live this lie, and finally transgendered into your own skin. Welcome home!

Rachael Evelyn Booth's story is a testament to the invincibility of the Spirit. She believed she was a woman trapped in a man's body, but societal norms of the day forced her to keep her secret through her childhood, her tumultuous teen years, and into much of her adulthood, while trying to navigate this life that felt so alien. Rachel Booth faced challenges in her life that would defeat lesser people, but she could, she did, and continues to grow and live life her way.

The Navy and beyond

A native of a small town in Ohio, Ricky (Rachael) moved to New Hampshire after graduating from high school.

"I joined the Navy in 1969, and got out in Norfolk, VA nine years later. My parents had four children, and since there was no money, the only way I could go to college was to join the Navy. This allowed me to go under the GI bill," she said. "I loved music and was going to be a music teacher, but

things never work out the way you want."

She took an aptitude test while in boot camp, "so they could assess my strengths. I aced the foreign language aptitude test." When asked if she would like to become a linguist, she told them she preferred to be a hospital corpsman. When she was told that most of them went to Vietnam and never came back, she decided to become a linguist. She learned to speak Mandarin Chinese at the Navy's Defense Language Institute West Coast in Monterrey, CA. "It was 47 weeks long, six hours a day. All native-born teachers with no English spoken except when necessary."

Four years later, she went to the Navy's Defense Language Institutes East Coast in Washington, DC, where she learned to speak Arabic. "She used her Chinese speaking skills spending a year in the Philippines, and The National Security Agency, before heading back to school. Rachel speaks, Chinese, Arabic, Spanish, French, and "a smattering of other languages." She worked as a Cryptologist Technician, 2nd class Petty Officer, where she acted as a Mandarin Chinese and Arabic linguist for military intelligence.

Ricky (Rachael) stayed connected to the Navy for about 30 years after becoming a civilian. During this time, she helped program the AEGIS shipboard missile systems as well as others before retiring. "The last two years I was in the Navy (1975-77) they brought in a brand-new thing called a computer. No one had ever heard of a computer. They needed someone to learn how to use it. "I was bored and agreed to learn." This skill got her a job doing data entry for a newspaper department, "which was ridiculous, as I had been a programmer for two years."

"I saw an ad for a company that worked with the Navy doing submarine work. They had a computer system that no one knew how to use. You had to teach yourself. I got the job."

She was forced to retire in 2005 after a violent kick fight left her disabled

with injuries to her brain. "I had to learn to walk and talk again, and still have some memory issues". She's currently teaching herself German, "to prove to myself I can still learn."

Crossing the Gender Divide

"I wrote 'Crossing the Gender Divide-A Life in Two Worlds', which is a memoir about my life," she said. "I wrote it to help others get through what I went through alone back in the 50's," she explained. "I wanted to help them understand that becoming a full person is something you can do."

Rachael still laughs at the confusion on her birth certificate. She was born a biological male in 1951, however, in the box marked "gender," was the notation Fe. "Either someone knew something that no one else knew, or I had a lot of iron in me," she said. "This was the 50's and I couldn't talk about it or let anyone know." The original title of this book was "Wishing on a Star," as it starts with me at age 5, sitting behind our house in Ohio waiting for the first star to come out so I could ask the star to let everyone know I was really a girl, and why is everyone forcing me to be a boy."

Rachael has lectured in colleges and universities on this subject. She is a substitute teacher, and when she sees a transgendered child, never hesitates to tell them, "I'm just like you." Their reaction is, "Oh my God, look at her! She's old and is a real person with a real life!"

"I was raised as a boy, but that's not who I wanted to be, it was not who I was, and I couldn't tell my parents."

She loved helping her mother with cooking and housework. "It was in the 50's and that's what a girl was expected to do," she said. When her stepfather caught her mother teaching their son to knit, he became angry and told her to, "Stop! You don't teach that boy how to knit... that's a girl's job." That's when she realized "with my little kid brain," that if she told her parents how she felt about who she really was, they would get angry at her.

With all her accomplishments, there was still the part of her that, be-

cause of societal norms and pressures, had to be denied and kept secret. "I had to follow life the way society said I was supposed to be." Rachael finally transgendered when she was forty years old.

"Nothing worked. I joined the Navy to see if it would help me find my place. That didn't help," she said. "I got married and had children. That didn't help much."

She married twice. "The first marriage was supposed to make me 'fit in', my second wife promised she would help me do my transition, but she lied. She wanted to fix me and get it out of my system."

When she tried and failed to commit suicide at age 39, she realized that it wasn't courage, but the knowledge that if she didn't transition, she was going to die. Her father committed suicide when she was just two and a half, and she knew it would kill her mother if she did the same.

Although she was engaged to get married again, and was on antidepressants, she came to the "Enough!" point in her life and surrendered to the fact that this was never going to go away, and she could no longer live like this. "My daughter told me she'd rather have a live blonde in her life than a dead brunette," (her mother's natural hair color).

Her mother was embarrassed and upset enough to tell her not to come back home "like that."

"When I almost died 20 years later from the kick fight, she showed up at my son's house, she said, "I don't want to lose you like this." They remained in each other's lives for the next 13 years, but "I lost almost 20 years," she said, "and we were like best friends." "These were the times that you could lose your, house, your job, your livelihood, if anyone found out. There were no protections. Luckily, I was well thought of and highly respected in my work."

She transitioned while working for a company in a high management position. After her transition she moved from high management to the technical department, so she wouldn't feel an embarrassment to the company. They gave her the time

she needed to get comfortable in her life. "The weight of the world was off my shoulders, and I could be the person I wanted to be. I made the decision and never looked back. It was soul lifting for me."

She wrote her book so that people could understand what their loved ones are going through. "I wrote it in a way that is just me talking to you one on one." Sprinkled in with the seriousness of her subject, are many stories that are bound to make readers laugh.

She tells a story of changing her baby sister's diaper. "I was very young and had to change my baby sister's diaper. I noticed that 'she doesn't have that little thing that I have. Oh! That's why they call her a girl. Mine just hasn't fallen off yet!" When she reached puberty and realized that nothing like that was going to happen, "I was aghast and felt so lost, because there was nothing I could do.

Pregnancy is usually a joyous time, but Rachel, who was still a man, said, "It was a horrible time for me. I watched the child growing inside my wife and felt that should have been me."

Rachel is now happily married to a wonderful woman and is finally living her dream.

She has written two other books. "Time Slip: When Yesterday Ends," is an exciting time travel novel about a trip through several historical periods that went horribly wrong. "The Little Port in the Cornfields: A History of Evans port, OH" is a collection of stories about her hometown in northwest Ohio. They can all be found on Amazon. "Crossing The Gender Divide-A Life in Two Worlds," and "Time Slip: When Yesterday Ends," can also be found on her web site www.rachaelbooth.wix-site.com, and in the Littleton NH bookstore.

Pioneer, Scientist, Linguist, Veteran, Teacher, Author, Musician, Actor, Parent, Wife. We have barely touched the surface of this amazing woman which is the reason that Rachael Evelyn Booth is Someone You Should Know.

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Passing Assets Through a Trust: What to Know

As the year winds down, your thoughts might drift to the future. And, as part of that future, you may be thinking of where your financial assets will end up. You've worked hard to accumulate them, and you'll certainly need some of them to support your retirement, but what about the rest? What's the best way to pass them on to your loved ones?

There's no single path for everyone to follow. But you might consider establishing a trust, which offers some key benefits. For example, your estate can avoid the time-consuming, and highly public, process of probate. Plus, you can be highly specific about how your assets will be distributed.

To establish a trust, you will need to work with a qualified estate-planning attorney. And while you'll discuss many issues, here are three key questions that will certainly need to be addressed:

Who will serve as trustee of the trust? As the grantor, or creator, of your trust, you will pick the trustee – the individual or corporate entity that will manage the trust's assets and carry out the purpose of the trust. You could choose a trusted loved one, but this individual might not have the knowledge or experience to manage the responsibilities of a trustee. As an alternative, you could choose a corporate fiduciary, such as a bank or trust company. These entities are typically regulated by outside agencies and provide significant public matter expertise. Of course, they charge for their services and often have account minimums.

When are distributions made? As the grantor, you can choose when assets will be distributed to the beneficiaries you've named. You could decide to keep the assets in the trust until a beneficiary reaches the age of majority; note that the age of majority is not the same in all states. Or you could

beneficiary might be in managing money.

For what purposes can the trust assets be used? In addition to choosing when your trust should make distributions, you can decide how these assets should be used. You could designate some broad categories, such as health, education, maintenance and support. A beneficiary's request for distributions in these areas is usually granted. But you could also structure the trust to provide mandatory income, perhaps once a year, or include a provision that provides incentives, such as distributing certain amounts of money once the beneficiary has achieved a milestone, such as finishing a degree or purchasing a first home.

One final note: Although you clearly have great control over what your trust can accomplish, its effectiveness will also depend, to a great extent, on its asset level. With this in mind, you'll want to pay close attention to your investment decisions throughout your life and your withdrawal strategy during retirement. The better your choices in these areas, the more options you'll have with your trust – and the greater the potential benefits for your beneficiaries.

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

(and even some real words)

From The Editor

By Gary Scrutonn

In a couple of previous editions of Trendy Times it was printed that the time is fast approaching for me to hang up my editorial and publishing hats in order to further enjoy life. To that end there was a sale price put on Trendy Times (\$10,000). To date no one has stepped up to fill my shoes, or to at least try them on for a while.

As a bit of a tutorial I will say that a number of other local publishers have been contacted along with some other interested parties. At the time of this writing, still no takers.

To further this tutorial I will add the following: Trendy Times is not just a hobby. My definition of a hobby is something you do that does not make a profit.

Trendy Times is also not a political mouthpiece for any particular party or group. I have tried very hard to make sure that I ride the proverbial fence in political discussions. Trendy Times has never endorsed a candidate, nor written an article opposed to a candidate. We have left those chores up to our many writers of Letters to the Editor. Of course I have answered most of those letters, sometimes with an opposing view, but most often with an alternative point of view. The idea is to make our readers aware of different points of view and therefore allow them to make an informed choice of their own.

Trendy Times is also a supporter of the many, many local non-profit organizations that serve our area. The advertising rate for non-profits is 50% off the regular advertising rate. We also are happy to publish press releases

from many non-profits whether they are doing a fund raiser, announcing a grant they have received, or perhaps telling our readers about a job well done. These articles are always put at the top of the list when it comes to the content of Trendy Times.

Of course the backbone of Trendy Times is the consistent and dedicated advertisers who pay to have their ads as part of the content of Trendy Times. These loyal businesses know the value of getting their products in front of our loyal readers. In fact there are now 9,000 copies of Trendy Times printed every two weeks. They are then distributed on newsstands from Orford and Fairlee north to Lyndonville, Littleton and Lincoln, and from Groton to Wentworth. Of those 9,000 copies, less than 10% are returned when the new issue comes off the press and gets distributed.

Trendy Times is a labor of love. One I would love to continue, but am instead ready to pass on. A new owner can be assured of my help with whatever aspect of the production they feel they need. Full financial disclosure is available for those who are seriously interested. The asking price is also negotiable with terms that both parties can agree upon.

If you would like a going business with potential for growth, and you have the ability to write, use a computer, and think for yourself, then now is the time to move forward. Interested parties may call the office number at 603-747-2887 or email Gary@TrendyTimes.com. I look forward to talking with the next owner of Trendy Times.

NH Tourism Officials Projecting 2.9 Million Travelers to Visit This Winter

Manchester - The New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism (DTTD) is anticipating an estimated 2.9 million people will visit New Hampshire this winter with spending by those visitors expected to reach \$1.3 billion. DTTD unveiled its winter marketing plan, along with forecast for visitation, as part of Ski New Hampshire's winter kickoff event held at McIntyre Ski Area in Manchester.

"We are coming off a record-breaking winter in New Hampshire, where spending reached \$1.2 billion, and while there are signs the rebound from the pandemic recovery is slowing, we expect to see continued growth this season in spending," said DTTD Director Lori Harnois.

Ski NH, the organization that works to promote New Hampshire as the top ski destination in the re-

gion, hosted the Ski 603 Winter Kickoff event to showcase the variety of skiing and snowboarding visitors can experience here, as well as events that have been lined up for the season ahead. "We were thrilled to be back at McIntyre Ski Area in Manchester to celebrate the start of the 2022-23 ski season," said Jessyca Keeler, President of Ski NH. "Resorts have invested millions of dollars in capital improvements that will serve to better the skiing and riding for winter visitors. We're looking forward to an exciting winter for everyone." Fourteen New Hampshire resorts, including both alpine and cross-country ski areas, participated in the event. The winter campaign will highlight the variety of winter activities visitors can experience here, including skiing and snowboarding, snowmobiling,

and off-slope activities such as snowshoeing, skating, dining and tax-free shopping. "This winter we're also really excited to be highlighting some of the edgier winter adventures such as skinning, fat biking and skiing in backcountry glades," said Harnois. The campaign will fully launch in January in New England, New York and Eastern Canada.

Visitors traveling to New Hampshire are encouraged to commit to the Granite State Promise, and to practice Leave No Trace, both are efforts to remind residents and visitors to be responsible travelers, plan ahead, be patient and respectful of each other to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip.

For winter travel inspiration, visit www.visitnh.gov.

The Un-Thanksgiving

By Elinor Mawson

For the past 13 years, we have celebrated Thanksgiving at our son's camp a couple hours away in the woods. We had to bring everything including water, because there was no electricity or central heat, and it was a hard job. But we could cook and cook we did, putting on a creditable meal with everyone around the table. I won't mention the clean-up, but we were happy with the day.

This year we changed the venue and the day, due to 2 of our family who had to work, as well as another two who had Covid. I worried that it would be an anti-climax, but we soldiered on, bringing all the food and using another person's kitchen, complete with hot water and electric lights. The house was decorated for Christmas, along with lighted tree.

The meal was prepared and set out. I had made the best gravy I ever had, and I was so proud. Everyone helped himself. Three of us sat at the table which was decorated for Christmas. The rest sat or stood around the kitchen island. there was no mention of the food. When asked if anyone wanted dessert, there were groans from some of them about eating too much.

While cleaning up, I commented on the fact that nobody had to heat the water. But then I was busy single-handedly dismantling the turkey and preparing portions of leftovers for everyone to take home.

Some of the family played a game at the table, and one by one, they all left the house, carrying leftovers and going their separate ways. We were left watching football for the rest of the day.

Sometime in the night, my husband and I both awoke and talked about our holiday. To say it was disappointing would be an understatement. We had driven almost 3 hours to get there, bringing a bulk of the food, including a birthday cake for 2 of our relatives. We were sad that nobody mentioned how good the dinner was, and there were no thanks for the effort. We took the birthday cake to another relative where it was welcomed and served.

There was a missing element for the whole dinner--togetherness.

My husband says I tend to over-react to experiences like this. That may be true, but if I feel sad it is a real feeling. I don't know what will happen another time; it's a year away after all, but I sure don't want a repeat of this Thanksgiving..



BEEZWAX By John Martin

EVERY YEAR IT GETS HARDER TO HIDE CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FROM PRYING EYES.



YEA... MAYBE I SHOULD TALK TO STINGER ABOUT THAT.



I WAS TALKING ABOUT YOU!





What About Ma?

by Kellie Quackenbush

All About The School Bus

One of Ma's favorite activities was to sit on the front porch and drink coffee while she watched the kids waiting for the school bus. She would watch her own precious boy everyday until he did not catch the School bus and then she would watch the neighborhood children. From her front porch she watched the children play while they waited for the bus and all the other happenings at bus time. Ma loved the little children, she was watching them and helping to protect them.

Protecting the children while they board the school bus in the morning and return home in the afternoon is the job of the school bus driver. The school bus driver has the flashing yellow and red lights and a flashing stop sign to alert drivers to stop. The bus driver also has a radio to call the bus dispatch in the event of an emergency or the sighting of unsafe behavior on the road.

New Hampshire has specific laws regarding drivers and how to behave when a school bus is stopped on the road. "New Hampshire's law requires stopping at least 25 feet from a school bus that has flashing red lights, whether you are driving toward or from behind the bus. Drivers must stay put until the bus starts again or the red lights stop flashing.

Those who violate the law are subject to a fine of between \$100-\$750 for a first offense and \$250-\$1,000 for a subsequent offense, as well as a 30-day suspension of their driver's license for subsequent offenses." per <https://patch.com/new-hampshire/bedford-nh/here-s-law-nh-passing-stopped-school-buses> by Mike Carraggi, Patch

Staff.

In Vermont, "On all undivided highways (without a median), traffic in both directions must stop at least 20 feet from a stopped school bus that has its red lights flashing. You must not pass the bus until the lights are turned off or the bus starts moving." per SCHOOL BUS LAWS REFERENCE GUIDE - Garner Trucking garnertrucking.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/School-Bus-Laws

"Authorized emergency vehicles shall come to a full stop when approaching a school bus which is flashing red lights and may proceed only when the flashing red lights are extinguished," says 23 V.S.A. § 1015 of the Vermont statutes pertaining to exemptions for emergency vehicles." per Police cracking down on vehicles passing buses | News | vtcmg.com

What this means is that EVERYONE must stop when a school bus is stopped and flashing red lights. The number of people who have recently "run the lights" has gone up. It gets dark earlier in the day so many children are getting off the school bus at dusk or later, their dark coats and boots are very difficult to see, and cars passing school buses are risking the lives of children.

Recently, on a Wednesday, several bus drivers in Grafton County of New Hampshire and Orange County of Vermont, had several incidences of cars passing their buses while they were stopped with their red lights flashing. Sadly, this bad behavior is even seen in the school yards.

In one incident, on Route 25-C, the bus was stopped to let students off

and a king-cab white truck was behind the bus. This was a special needs bus that has the duty of bringing special children home. The bus was stopped for 2 minutes before the man in the King-Cab truck started beeping his horn at the bus, which upset the child so the child was even slower. Then the man in the truck pulled over the double yellow lines and honking all the way stopped beside the bus driver and honked his horn and yelled out his window until the bus driver opened the window to address him. The man yelled about having to wait (3 minutes) while shaking his fist at the bus driver and then continued to pass the bus and speed off.

The bus was stopped and waiting for a parent to assist the student, the whole stop took less than five minutes. However, the vehicles honking and the impatient man in the white truck, causing the student to be upset and taking the bus driver's attention away from the student may have caused a life threatening event. This is not helpful.

Do not honk at buses that are stopped with their lights flashing. If you think there is a problem, use your cell phone and dial 911 to get help. If you think you can be of help, pull over and park on a shoulder or driveway and walk to the passenger door of the bus and ask. Do not pass buses with their lights flashing. Take a breath and think about the children on the bus, their parents are counting on the bus to get them home safe.

Be like Ma, protect the little children and be the extra set of eyes for the bus.

Why I Can't Sleep

by Maggie Anderson

Some expert, totally consumed with my health and safety, just emailed to explain to me why I can't sleep. That's funny because I have to set my alarm so I don't sleep until noon every day.

Who told the poor sap I can't sleep? And why would they be more concerned about my sleep patterns than I? My guess is they're peddling some new miracle they don't want me to miss out on. They forgot miracles have always been free, most often without pleading or deal making, and certainly no price tag or shipping cost.

Before I'd even hit my delete button, somebody else sent an email informing me how important it is that I get enough tea tree oil in my life. Sadly right now I'm too busy enjoying

my life to winnow out the wheat from the chaff of everybody's helpful info and advice.

My days are so filled with interests and creative pursuits, let alone the views the Pacific offers when she tosses wild King Tides against the rocks and along the shore this time of year, there is little time to spend following the streams from hucksters intent on reeling in a big one.

If they want a more positive response maybe they should grab a pole and find a good fishing hole and leave me to enjoy all the season has to offer.

Here's hoping the rest of you find something this winter more rewarding than emails designed to separate you from your money and your own pursuit of happiness.

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NH Liquor Commission Receives National Awards for Customer Service and Outreach Initiatives

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Liquor Commission (NHLC) has been recognized among the top control states in the country for the seventh consecutive year by StateWays Magazine in its annual Control State Best Practices Awards. NHLC was awarded Best Stakeholder Outreach Program for its \$4 billion milestone educational campaign and Best Technology Innovation for its curbside sales and in-store pickup program. StateWays Magazine is the only nationwide magazine devoted to issues and subjects impacting the beverage alcohol control state system.

“NHLC is honored to receive this recognition from StateWays Magazine, as the two awards together speak to our ongoing efforts to enhance the customer experience through maximizing efficiency, developing engaging educational opportunities, and implementing promotional sales incentives,” said NHLC Chairman Joseph Mollica. “We are grateful to our dedicated team of 1,100 employees, whose hard work makes it possible for us to continue delivering creative and innovative ways to meet consumer demand and to maximize sales revenue for the betterment of the state of New Hampshire.”

With its \$4 billion milestone educational campaign, NHLC celebrated surpassing \$4 billion in net revenue since it first started selling wine and spirits in 1934, while also emphasizing NHLC’s role as a critical resource to the

New Hampshire General Fund, supporting education, health and social services, transportation, natural resource protection, addiction treatment and prevention programs. Despite the General Fund’s crucial role in New Hampshire, the broad description can make its purpose seem unclear to stakeholders and customers. To answer the question of where that revenue goes and to thank key stakeholders, NHLC developed an engaging and informational campaign through the launch of a new website www.wheredoesthemoneygonh.com.

Through the website, NHLC highlights that Outlet sales go directly back to the people of New Hampshire, while taking visitors on a fun and informational journey to better understand NHLC’s business and the positive impact the \$4 billion in net revenue has had on the Granite State. The site also offered customers the opportunity to win one of four \$1,000 NH Liquor & Wine Outlet gift cards in celebration of the milestone. The campaign was extremely successful, generating nearly one million impressions, 33,552 website visits and 11,361 email entries. The website was designed to be evergreen and will be updated as NHLC continues to produce record revenue for the New Hampshire general fund and educate consumers and stakeholders on how they have helped millions of people statewide.

NHLC also earned the Best Technology Innovation



The New Hampshire Liquor Commission (NHLC) has been recognized among the top control states in the country for the seventh consecutive year by StateWays Magazine in its annual Control State Best Practices Awards. NHLC was awarded Best Stakeholder Outreach Program for its \$4 billion milestone educational campaign and Best Technology Innovation for its curbside sales and in-store pickup program. Pictured above, left to right, at the awards ceremony: NHLC Division of Enforcement Field Operations Lieutenant Ben Williams, StateWays Magazine Editor Kyle Swartz, NHLC Division of Enforcement Chief Mark Armaganian and NHLC Division of Enforcement Deputy Chief Danielle Ellston.

award for its commitment to meeting consumer demand despite unprecedented circumstances. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, NHLC fast-tracked a Curbside and In-Store Pickup program, which allows customers to place orders online and to pick them up either curbside or inside at one of 27 NH Liquor & Wine Outlet locations and counting. As NHLC has continually expanded the program to allow customers to select from a menu of more than 9,500 wines and spirits, it was imperative NHLC enhance the program to make it as efficient and streamlined as possible for NHLC’s limited in-store employees.

Through the program, NHLC installed a special-

ized lighting system near the manager’s office to provide a visual indicator for the volume of curbside and in-store pickup orders, which helps staff manage orders as they come in. The light indicates orders in Open or Picking Status. Once an order is placed in Picked Status, it no longer is applied to the indicator light. The light color, green, yellow, or red indicates the order volume. In addition to the lighting system, NHLC utilizes iPads from which staff manage the lighting system and order status: Open Orders, Picking, Picked and Complete. The program has been especially successful over the past two years and played a critical role in NHLC generating record-breaking total sales of

\$801 million in Fiscal Year 2021. NHLC plans to continue expanding the program and its Commerce Deployment feature.

NHLC was previously recognized for Best Technology Innovation in 2015, Best Warehouse Innovation in 2016, Best Retail Innovation in 2018, Best On- and Off-Premise Partnership in 2019, Best On-Premise Partnership and Best Technology Innovation in 2021 and Overall Winner in 2017 and 2020 in StateWays’ annual Control State Best Practices Awards. The StateWays Best Practices Awards launched in 2015 to recognize control state agencies that are leading the industry in innovation, education, and enforcement.

Not all Times are Trendy, but there will always be Trendy Times

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Cheesecake for Company

EDITOR'S NOTE: Once again we are digging into the archives to fill this spot. The good news is that Cindy is not ill. In fact it is good news. Her painter has finally been able to get to her kitchen. Unfortunately that means a different kind of mess in that particular room. So here is one that still goes with the season even if it originally ran in the early fall of 2020.

Hello hello my fellow chefs. How are you all doing. I've been feeling better lately. I have to go to Dartmouth-Hitchcock for yet another test but for now I'm doing pretty good. Today's recipe is so Delicious and I know you will love it.

Me and my friend Jane took a ride to Hampton Beach last week and we met my son Nick and Tobi and my grandchildren Angelo and Abigail. The weather was beautiful and we had a great time. The water was ice cold and I couldn't seem to go in the water except for my feet. If you have the chance visit

Hampton Beach because it's very beautiful. We will go again next year and hope to stay for a couple of days.

Let's get started with today's recipe for cheesecake, it's smooth and creamy and pretty easy to make. Here's the ingredients and how to make it.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Ingredients

- 1 1/4 cups of graham cracker crumbs
 - 2 Tablespoons sugar
 - 3 Tablespoons melted butter
 - 2 8 oz packages of Cream cheese plus 3 oz of cream cheese softened
 - 1 cup of sugar
 - 2 teaspoons grated lemon peel
 - 2 teaspoons of vanilla extract
 - 3 eggs
 - 8 oz of sour cream
- Mix the graham cracker crumbs, the 2 Tablespoons sugar and the melted butter.
- Mix well and press lightly in a spring form pan evenly going up the side a

little. Bake for 10 minutes. Remove and cool. Mix the cream cheese and add the cup of sugar a little at a time, then add the 3 eggs one at a time and add the grated lemon peel and vanilla and mix well I used my electric beater. Pour over the graham crust and shake even. Reduce the temperature to 300 degrees and bake for 1 hour or until firm in center. Cool slightly then spread the sour cream evenly over the top and bake for 10 minutes more. Take out of oven and chill in refrigerator. That's it.

Go around the edge with a knife and remove from spring form pan. You can add blueberry or strawberry pie filling or if you want you can add fresh strawberries that you cut up with a little



sugar and serve over the top. If you use pie filling you can spread it over the top but if you use fresh strawberries spoon over a piece of cut cheesecake. If you do use fresh strawberries it will get mushy so spoon over top when you serve. Easy peasy.

Everyone will love it so give this recipe a try.

It goes great with a nice cup of coffee or tea.

Well folks that's it for today's recipe. I hope you enjoy this and if you have any questions please call Gary and I will help you out. Until next time I am signing off. Sincerely yours Cin Pin.

Woodsville High School Senior Mary Delafontaine had the opportunity to represent WHS and NH JAG at the JAG National Student Leadership Academy in Washington DC from December 1st-3rd. She spent four days interacting and working with other student leaders from around the country. They engaged in leadership workshops, met with NH Congressman Chris Pappas, and had the opportunity to enjoy the sights of the city.

Photo courtesy of Jill Nichols
Woodsville High School JAG Youth Specialist



Not all Times are Trendy, but there will always be Trendy Times

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