

A FREE PUBLICATION



Next Issue: Friday, December 22
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TRENDY



TIMES

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December 12, 2023 VOLUME 15, NUMBER 5



White Mountain Voices Presents: Snow Angel Holiday Concert! Debut of YOUTH VOICES!



White Mountain Voices presents their winter concert, Snow Angel, featuring music by Quartel, Rutter, Ramos, and others, plus the debut of White Mountain Youth Voices. The audience gets a chance to sing along with some holiday favorites. Concerts are December 16, 7:30 PM at Lancaster Congregational Church and December 17, 3:00 PM at First Congregational Church in Littleton. Suggested donation is \$15.00.

Music Director, Victoria Cole says "We are very excited about our new children's choir, White Mountain Voices. This is a project I've been dreaming about for several years. This is the future of choral singing right here in our community. The children are

learning skills that they will hold for their whole lives. We are the only community children's choir in northern New Hampshire." The program features seasonal music under the direction of Victoria Cole, with accompaniment by Joseph Hansalik, piano, and Anna Brown, cello. Canadian composer Sarah Quartel, notes that her Snow Angel explores themes of love, rebirth, and beauty through the eyes of children and the heavenly army of angels that watch over them. The piece is accompanied by piano and cello, along with the African djembe drum in one segment.

White Mountain Voices is a community chorus founded in 2017 and serving the Littleton-Lancaster region, typically perform-

ing two concerts per year. The Youth Voices program started this past October. White Mountain Voices is a fully-registered charitable non-profit 501.C.3 organization.

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TRENDY Dining Guide

New Century Restaurant

By: April Scruton



Hello fellow readers this issue I decided to bring George out for lunch and his favorite is Chinese. We had not had it in a while and we had just recently acquired a new contract with New Century Restaurant in the Trendy Dining Guide, so we decided to go there. In the recent months they have switched ownership, even though the faces are familiar. George and I got seated immediately and started looking at the menu. There are new items on the menu. Some, I have never even heard of. So I had to ask, but I knew that they car-

dumplings. So I got an order of those. Which I have tried previously and are so yummy. We both decided to get the general gaus chicken, which is on the lunch menu. He likes the eggrolls and I prefer the crab Rangoon, so that's what we decided on, they came out in a short amount of time. They were good sized portions as always. We both had to get to go boxes so we could bring the rest home. It was rather quiet in there that day. So we got to chat about Christmas. He is very excited to see the lights around town. We

ried the shrimp got the bill, that came out to \$53.98. I paid the bill and left a tip. We headed for home.

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or Email: Gary@TrendyTimes.com

Waiting

By: Elinor Mawson

In the past few months, I have had the unfortunate experience of being in a number of waiting rooms.

For one thing, although they are all different, they are also all alike. People are sitting there, all with the same expression on their faces, trying not to be bored. Some have a book or magazine with them. Since Covid, there are no longer reading materials in waiting rooms. Oh yes! Sometimes there are health-related issues--mostly boring.

I waited in a large waiting area when my husband had back surgery. There was a sign that forbade any eating or drinking there--speaking of boring! I had something to read with me, but the people-watching was far more interesting. Every so often, a surgeon would come in, look for his patient's family, and go talk

to them. Occasionally the person in charge of the place would announce somebody's name and that person would rise and leave like someone was pursuing them. I spent 8 hours in this huge waiting room--I finished a book and had a great time watching everybody else.

In another facility I found myself talking to an older gentleman who was reading. I asked him about the book he was holding and he announced that it was his wife's. She was having a procedure and he was waiting for her. After a few minutes of small talk he told me that he had been adopted by a physician and his wife. The couple was unable to have kids of their own, and the mother hated her adopted son. He finally ran away from home and talked to a policeman who helped him get away from the family. It was an interest-

ing story and I went away trying to get my head around such a tale.

At another waiting room I met a lady who was waiting to have her lung problem discussed. She had been smoking for years and had just quit when she found out she had cancer. She also told me of other procedures she had endured. Then the subject changed to her autistic grandson and we had a spirited chat about autism. I learned a lot that day.

I have found that it is easy to take up a discussion with someone who is spending time waiting for whatever it may be. Most everyone likes to talk about their health problems, and I find I am a good listener. It does pass the time well, and, although I have my own problems, hearing about the problems of others makes mine dull by comparison.

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Know The Key Benefits of Roth IRA

As you save for retirement, you'll want to take full advantage of the investment vehicles available to you — and one of the best is a Roth IRA. But what sets it apart from other accounts?

Three key factors distinguish the Roth IRA:

Tax-free earnings — When you invest in a Roth IRA, your earnings can grow tax free, provided you don't

begin taking withdrawals until you're 59½ and you've had your account at least five years. If you don't meet these criteria, withdrawals of earnings will be subject to taxes and a possible 10% penalty.

No penalties on withdrawals of contributions — You fund a Roth IRA with after-tax

dollars, which means you can withdraw your contributions — not the earnings — at any time for any reason, without facing taxes or penalties. So, you could use some of your Roth IRA money for non-retirement purposes, such as helping pay for a child's college education.

No required withdrawals at age 73 — With a traditional IRA or a 401(k), you must start taking withdrawals — called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — once you reach 73. But this rule doesn't apply to a Roth IRA — you can keep it intact as long as you like. You may need to tap into it for some of your retirement income, but if you don't use it all, the remainder could benefit your beneficiaries.

A Roth IRA does share one similarity to a traditional IRA: It can be funded with virtually any type of investment, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, certificates of deposit (CDs) and so on.

However, unlike a traditional IRA, a Roth IRA does have income limits.

For the 2023 tax year, if your modified adjusted gross income was less than \$138,000 (for a single filer) or \$218,000 (married filing

jointly), you can put in the full amount of \$6,500 and an additional \$1,000 catch-up contribution if you're 50 or older. The amounts you can contribute will gradually decline at higher income levels and are phased out entirely at \$153,000 for single filers and \$228,000 if you're married and file jointly. These income ranges will likely change for the 2024 tax year, so you'll want to consult with your tax advisor for details.

Still, even if you've contributed to a traditional IRA or a 401(k) for many years, you may have a chance to eventually "convert" some, or all, of these funds to a Roth IRA and gain its benefits. It's not hard to do this conversion — it involves minimal paperwork from your traditional IRA or 401(k) provider — but it does come with tax issues. Any money that's converted from a traditional IRA or 401(k) to a Roth IRA will be treated as ordinary taxable income. This can trigger a large tax bill, so, unless you have the money available from other accounts to pay the taxes, the conversion may or may not make sense for you. But you don't have to convert all the funds at once. By spreading the conversion over several

years, you could reduce the effect of a large tax hit in any single year. You may want to consult with your tax advisor before converting any funds to a Roth IRA.

If you can find a way to contribute to a Roth IRA, either directly or through a conversion, consider it carefully — you'll find a lot of upsides to this investment account.

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

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Rozzie May Animal Alliance (RMAA) is excited to share that they have reached another milestone. They recently spayed/neutered the 30,000th animal at their clinic on Hobbs Street, Conway Village, NH.

This helps RMAA achieve its goal of 'no more homeless animals - let's fix it!' and reduces the number of dogs and cats entering shelters. Not only are 'homed' cats and dogs being served, but RMAA has partnered with several rescues and shelters throughout New Hampshire and western Maine to help solve this problem.

In 2007 Roz Manwaring and a group of supporters formed this 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Local veterinarians, individual volunteers in the community and donors banded together to achieve this goal of providing low cost spay/neuter for dogs and cats.

'It is so satisfying to know that the organization started with nothing but the realization that we had an enormous problem

and something needed to be done to address it' stated Nancy Lapointe, President of RMAA.

Rozzie May Animal Alliance performs surgeries at their clinic in Conway Village. Owners and organizations can bring their cats and dogs to this location for their appointments. In addition, RMAA has a 'Cat Cab' van that will pick up cats at various locations throughout New Hampshire and western Maine and returned them at days end.

Appointments may be made on Facebook, Rozzie May Animal Alliance, on line at www.rozzie-may.org or by calling 603-447-1373. Mail address: Rozzie May Animal Alliance P O Box 1756, Conway, NH 03818.

Sprinkles was the 30,000th animal 'fixed' at Rozzie May Animal Alliance. She lives in Parsonsfield, Maine.



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White Mountain Voices Presents:

Snow Angel Holiday Concert!
Debut of YOUTH VOICES
7:30 PM

Lancaster Congregational Church
Lancaster, NH

Sunday, December 17

White Mountain Voices Presents:

Snow Angel Holiday Concert!
Debut of YOUTH VOICES
3 PM

First Congregational Church
Littleton, NH

Thursday, December 21

Court Street Arts
Presents: "You and Me on Christmas Eve..."
7:30 PM
Alumni Hall, Haverhill, NH

Friday, December 22

Polar Express,
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- 12/15 Sloppy Joe's, Sweet Potato Fries, Carrots
- 12/18 Tuna Noodle Casserole, Beets
- 12/19 Roast Pork Gravy over Mashed Potato, Peas
- 12/20 Holiday Meal
- 12/21 Sweet & Sour Meatballs, Baked Rice, Veggies
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TRENDY TIMES

A FREE PUBLICATION



The Psychic at Old Church Theater - Well, not really. by Gary Scruton

The final presentation of the 2023 season at Old Church Theater in Bradford was the Sam Bobrick written play entitled "The Psychic". The main character, Adam Webster (portrayed by Christopher Leary) is in fact not a Psychic, or at least he believes he is not, even though his hand written sign and business cards proclaim something different. Not to mention his occasional outbursts of "facts". That is the main set up for this play that had plenty of laughs, a few "Ah-ha!"s and some very good performances.

Meghan Bullard is no stranger to the OCT stage and her performance as Laura Benson (as well as the publishing executive) called on her to really use all of her emotions, her voice and even her lips to get the part right.

Jack Walker is the next actor listed in the playbill. As Roy Benson his role was very important to set the stage, but was cut short due to the story, only to be brought back in the final scene with some very "different" thoughts in the minds of the audience.

Much of Jack's description can be given to Sara Lornitzo whose character, Rita Malone, also was written out of the story only to make a return with others.

Mr. Johnny Bubbles was indeed a character out of the 40's, as he stated himself. Erik Volk took on the sound that well portrayed this "gangsta". It was a sound that very much helped some of the laughs roll out even better.

And I can't forget Vincent Moore who apparently likes being a detective. The part of Norris Coslow needed the big booming voice that Vin-

cent provided. All in all the casting for the Psychic was done very, very well. All six performers portrayed their individual, and very unique, characters with a very entertaining flare. The play itself also offered a chance for many laughs and twists and turns, even though the production was able to be mostly not needed. The play all took place in the same location. Lighting was never needed to change. It was the actors alone that created the atmosphere for the audience to enjoy a very well done production.

The curtain has now

been drawn on the 2023 season of Old Church Theater. But the night my wife and I attended a list was announced for 2024. The best news of which was that there is a hope at least, that OCT will move back across the street by the end of 2024 into the newly renovated and much improved Old Church. This will allow OCT to continue production for themselves as well as provide a space for other forms of entertainment for the community. I wish them the very best and look forward to the next production from this volunteer and very talented group.

FIRST DAY HIKES: START 2024 WITH A NEW POINT OF VIEW

New Hampshire State Parks to host popular annual event at seven locations

Concord, NH (Dec. 6, 2023) – The key to fulfilling the classic New Year's resolution "be more active" is starting off on the right foot—like with a beautiful hike in the great New Hampshire outdoors. New Hampshire State Parks is set to host their annual First Day Hikes event at select State Parks on New Year's Day.

This year, hikers can traverse seven state parks, which includes Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion State Historic Site, Weeks State Park, Bear Brook State Park, White Lake State Park and Monadnock State Park. Northwood Meadows State Park and Rhododendron State Park are new to the lineup this year.

To celebrate the long-held tradition this year, there will be fun giveaways, including a special commemorative poker chip. These will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Visitors can go at their own pace through self-guided tours through his-

toric sites, observe native wildlife, enjoy stunning winter views and find serenity with nature. Pets are welcomed at most locations but must be leashed at all times (see registration page for pet-friendly locations).

Registration is required, but same-day registration is not allowed. For more information about each park and registration links, visit <https://www.nhstateparks.org/first-day-hikes-2024>.

"First Day Hikes is one of our favorite traditions at New Hampshire State Parks," said Brian Wilson, Director of New Hampshire Division of Parks & Recreation. "It's the perfect way to start the new year—encouraging friends and families to explore nature and make unforgettable memories together."

First Day Hikes is part of America's State Parks national initiative, inspiring people to experience and appreciate nature. This is the 13th year that New Hampshire and State Parks are participating in the tradition.

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If you would like to be involved in the Tatum's Totes Holiday Giving Drive, or if you would like to make a monetary donation in support of the program, which also provides essential items and financial training to kids in foster care, please be in touch at (802) 613-3989 or by emailing Sarah Galbraith at sgalbraith@gmunitiedway.org.



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OBITUARY: Roland Laclerc



Roland Laclerc passed away on October 27, 2023 at his home with his family by his side.

Roland Rosorio Leclerc was born on February 21, 1937 at Littleton Hospital, to Roorio and Goldie (Rogers) Laclerc of Lincoln, NH (deceased).

Roland was married to his wife Nancy (Reynolds) Leclerc. They had one son, Mark Anthony Leclerc.

He is predeceased by

a brother Robert Laclerc and a sister-in-law Shirley (Boyle) Leclerc. He is survived by a sister Jeanette (Leclerc) Lavoie and spouse Dr. Ronald Lavoie of Virginia, three granddaughters, Ashley Leclerc, Sarah Leclerc & Lauren (Leclerc) Bell and her spouse Christopher Bell, three great grandchildren, Aspen Clement, Ryder Bell, and Harper Bell along with many nieces and nephews.

Grampy will be missed by all of his grandchildren. He was always making them laugh.

Roland served in the US Navy Air (1955-1959) on the Franklin D. Roosevelt aircraft carrier CVA-42 and the USS Ticonderoga aircraft carrier CVA-14. He was discharged as a

2nd class Petty Officer. He then served in the Army National Guard, was the Woodstock, NH Police Chief, worked at White Mts. Attraction, Beacon Resorts and in DadsToy Store.

Roland and Nancy and other supporters introduced "Liberty House Homeless Veteran Shelter" to the North Country. As a veteran Rolli supported our veterans and "Jeff's House" on Route 175. Roli, as everyone knew him, made everyone laugh.

After retiring, tinkering on his lawnmowers in his garage, gathering bikes to fix for kids that had none, one would see him ... stop for a chat, laughing on their way. Roli will be missed by many.

The Leclerc Family wants to "thank all" who came to our rescue so many times.

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NH Tourism Officials Projecting Three Million Travelers to Visit This Winter

Winter travel spending expected to reach \$1.5 billion

Concord - (December 5, 2023) – The New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism (DTTD) is anticipating an estimated three million people will visit New Hampshire this winter, with spending by those visitors expected to reach \$1.5 billion. DTTD unveiled its winter marketing plan, along with forecast for visitation, as part of Ski New Hampshire's winter kickoff event held at Prinoth in Concord.

"We're very optimistic about this winter season," said NH Travel and Tourism Director Lori Harnois. "This is the first time since the pandemic visitation is expected to surpass levels we experienced in 2019."

Ski NH, the organization that works to promote New Hampshire as the top ski destination in the region, joined forces with Prinoth to host the Winter Kickoff that welcomed guests from New Hampshire and across the Northeast. Prinoth, a manufacturer of snow groomers and tracked utility vehicles recently moved locations to their new distribution center in Concord.

"There's a lot of excitement around skiing and riding this year, particularly with the cold temperatures and even some early season snow that many of our ski areas have experienced," said Jessyca Keeler, President of Ski NH. Recent weather has helped 11 Ski NH member resorts open for the season, including Attitash Mountain, Bretton Woods, Cannon Mountain, Cranmore Mountain Resort, Crotched Mountain,

Loon Mountain Resort, Mount Sunapee, Pats Peak Ski Area, Ragged Mountain, Waterville Valley Resort, and Wildcat Mountain. Other resorts will be opening leading up to the holidays, as well as cross-country areas where weather conditions allow.

New Hampshire's winter marketing campaign highlights the variety of winter experiences available here including skiing, snowboarding, and snowmobiling; extreme activities such as skinning, backcountry skiing, and fat biking, as well as off-slope activities such as snowshoeing, skating, dining, and tax-free shopping. The campaign will fully launch in January in New England and Eastern Canada.

During the event, Keeler shared news about recent capital improvements NH ski areas have made to enhance the guest experience. A complete list of improvements for the 2023-24 season can be found here, and Ski NH's 2023-24 media kit can be found here.

Visitors traveling to New Hampshire this winter are encouraged to practice Leave No Trace, New Hampshire's initiative 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. Stay connected with New Hampshire tourism on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest and YouTube, and be sure to follow the #LiveFreeNH tag to see what other people are saying about New Hampshire.

NGCRC collects money for David's House

The Northern Grafton County Republican Committee (NGCRC) has been collecting can tabs for David's House in Lebanon which supports New Hampshire children and their families.

In addition to the many, many can tabs collected, cash donations were also accepted.

A check for \$80.04 has been sent to David's House located in Lebanon, NH by the NGCRC.

Thank you for your support.

Please contact Greg Robbins, NGCRC Can-Tabs-For-Kids Captain @ (603) 455-2067 if you wish to place a container at your business, drop off/collect can tabs/donate cash.

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Obituary: Hattie Jane Williams



Her greatest joy was her daughter, Ella Mae.

She is survived by her daughter, Ella Mae Bradley of Barton, Vermont; her father, Ryan Williams and partner Crystal Boutin of Woodsville, NH; siblings Olivia and Hank Williams of Woodsville, NH, Haile Boutin of Lisbon, NH, and Rebecca Russel of Montpelier, VT; Grandmother Shelley Williams of Monroe, NH; Terry Williams and partner Mark Brooks of North Haverhill, NH; Many loving aunts, uncles, cousins and countless friends who are like family. Her biological mother, Susan Siewertsen of Vermont.

There will be no services at this time.

Hattie's family would like to thank everyone for the many messages and calls of support and condolences they have received during this hard time.

Memorial contributions can be made to the JAG or Art Programs at Woodsville High School, 9 High Street, Woodsville, NH 03785.

Hattie was so proud of her time as the president of JAG and always felt at home creating something.

To offer the family an online condolence, please visit www.rickerfh.com Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is assisting with arrangements.

Woodsville, NH- Hattie Jane Williams, 19, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, December 5th, 2023, in St. Johnsbury, Vermont.

She was born on June 25th, 2004, to Ryan Williams and Susan Siewertsen in Woodsville, New Hampshire.

She attended Woodsville Elementary School through to Woodsville High School and graduated in 2022. While in school she was the JAG president.

She worked at Grafton County Nursing Home as a Dietary Aid and after graduating she lived in Woodsville, New Hampshire, and St. Johnsbury, Vermont.

She loved music, attending concerts, & being with friends and family. She was a gifted photographer starting from a young age. She also was a talented artist and baker. Throughout the years she enjoyed being the passenger on her father's motorcycle for her yearly birthday ride.

Gift Responsibly with NH Lottery and NH Council for Responsible Gambling This Holiday Season

CONCORD, N.H. – This holiday season, the New Hampshire Lottery is teaming up with the New Hampshire Council for Responsible Gambling to remind players of the risks associated with underage lottery play. In collaboration with the U.S. and Canadian lotteries, the New Hampshire Lottery is launching the 'Holiday Lottery Responsible Gaming Campaign' to highlight that all holiday-themed scratch tickets, as well as other lottery games, are not appropriate gifts for children under the age of 18.

"It is very important we remind consumers, especially during the holiday season, that lottery games are only to be played by those ages 18 and older," said Charlie McIntyre, Executive Director, New Hampshire Lottery. "While our games make for great gifts during the holiday season, we urge players not to share scratch tickets with minors."

In order to prevent underage lottery play, the

New Hampshire Lottery includes a printed reminder on all lottery products that players must be 18, and all retailers are trained to check IDs for age verification before selling lottery tickets.

"We make it our priority to remind those purchasing lottery tickets that they are not meant to be gifted to children," said Maura McCann, Chairwoman, New Hampshire Council for Responsible Gambling. "This is an important awareness campaign for our players and retailers and it is critical the New Hampshire Lottery continues to put extra emphasis on this point at this time of year."

New Hampshire Council for Responsible Gambling was established through the 2019 legislation legalizing sports betting in the Granite State and is tasked with education, prevention and treatment related to gambling disorders in New Hampshire.

About New Hampshire Lottery Since 1964, the New

Hampshire Lottery has contributed more than \$2.64 billion and counting to education in New Hampshire. For the past 59 years, the New Hampshire Lottery has recorded more than \$9.1 billion in lottery sales and other earnings, with over \$6.2 billion paid in prizes and other cost of sales.

The New Hampshire Lottery Commission, located at 14 Integra Drive in Concord, currently manages all lottery operations in the state, including scratch games, New Hampshire Powerball®, New Hampshire Mega Millions®, Tri-State MegabucksSM, Tri-State Pick3®/Pick4® Daily Numbers games, Gimme 5, Fast Play games, Lucky For Life®, KENO 603SM, and iLottery. The New Hampshire Lottery also regulates charitable gaming, including Bingo, Lucky 7, and Games of Chance, along with simulcast racing, fantasy sports, and sports wagering.

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OBITUARY:

Ai B. Metcalf



Ai B. Metcalf, 53, of Piermont, passed away at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center on Saturday, November 25, 2023.

Ai was born on July 25, 1970, to Abby (Johnson) and John Metcalf in Woodsville, NH. He grew up in Piermont with his two siblings, Asa and Abigail. He graduated from Orford High School in 1988 and went on to work at Johnson's Dairy Farm in Northwood, NH. Ai came back to Piermont in 1994 to start his own farm and worked hard on that farm until 2002. He worked at the Dairy Herd Improvement Association for several years.

On September 17, 1994, Ai married Michelle Ann (Stevens); they had three children together, Thomas, Helenmae, and Kathleen. They had 25 wonderful years together until Michelle passed away unexpectedly on September 27, 2019.

Ai loved showing cows, and dairy Toggen-

burg goats in 4-H. He was an avid New York Yankees fan and loved all sports.

He is predeceased by his wife Michelle A. Stevens-Metcalf; and his father, John Metcalf on June 20, 2021.

He was survived by his three children, Thomas Stevens-Metcalf, Helenmae Stevens-Metcalf and her partner Justin Smith, and Kathleen McNielly and her husband Nate; two grandchildren, Chloe and Zoey Bragg; his mother, Abby Metcalf; his brother, Asa Metcalf and his wife Heidi; and his sister Abigail Metcalf Underhill and her husband Jeff.

There will be a celebration of Ai's life on December 16, 2023, at 1PM at the Piermont School, burial will be held privately at the South Lawn Cemetery. Those who wish may make donations in memory of Ai Metcalf to the 4-H Foundation of New Hampshire, the Tom Fairchild 4-H Dairy Endowment at <https://extension.unh.edu/new-hampshire-4-h/4-h-foundation-new-hampshire>

To offer the family an online condolence, please visit www.rickerfh.com

Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is assisting with arrangements.

HOPE AND HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

By: Maggie Anderson

When I turned 50 I gave myself the best gift I have ever received. I gave myself the gift of time. I granted myself permission to close any book, long or short, regardless of its author, or the credentials of the person who recommended it to me.

I decided, if by the time I had reached - or in the case of one book in particular- neared page 100, I had no interest whatsoever in turning the page, cared nothing at all about its plot, and couldn't care less about its conclusion, I could close the cover and not look back.

The book in question was not written by some hack, he is actually quite the wordsmith, but the book falls on my ears as though it is being read by

somebody trying to talk me off a ledge.

I know there are many people out on a ledge looking for a reason to climb down to safety rather than throw themselves off. I just don't happen to be one of them.

I have spent my life in hope's company, from my five-year-old's hope that my baby sister would always be with me, to hoping for a warm reunion on a higher plane after she died.

Then I married young and hoped for a world that would give my children a star bright enough to steer by.

I hoped for the skill and technology required to open up my 28 year-old husband's chest, remover a lung, plasticate a new bronchial system, stitch

his fragile frame back together, and send him home so he could watch the world introduce itself to our children.

They sent us home from the hospital with the admonition to get our affairs in order, they told us Hank would more likely than not never reach his 30th birthday.

I have just made reservations for a beach-front room for Sunday night. We're celebrating Hank's 77th birthday. I am grateful to a power greater than any on earth, the hope He provides, and happy to know neither has ever deserted me.

Hope unfolds in myriad ways every day and I cannot imagine a world without it.



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Letter to the Editor

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Cults are known for turning lying into a museum quality artform.

(The facts you are about to read are readily available to children through school library resources, i.e., approved and accessible for childhood reading and education!)

The Human Rights Campaign is an organization that lobbies for persons with various sexual proclivities other than the copulation technique utilized for reproducing human life. The "Campaign" along with the Bidens and other advocates, have successfully lobbied to have these proclivities converted into protected classes of people in our "progressive" Western Society. Run that by me again: A specific sex act becomes a category of person equivalent to say, a racial grouping like African Americans? Yup. It's magic. Each letter of the Alphabetic People stands for a class distinction associated with different failed attempts at procreation such as wandering into areas where solid waste is stored, other times using muscles that manipulate food, using plastic toys and mechanical devices, or even playing dress-up. The most creative ruse is asserting that one has morphed into another species like a wolf or a cat, which can then mate with a human (Furries). Love is Love you know! Now that stops the discussion...

Analyzing this latest resurrection of millennia Ken,

I believe that in my responses to Letters to the Editor I generally push for "an open, humble, and receptive mind and spirit." To me that means not turning anyone's opinion, way of life, likes or dislikes, into a reason to diminish their rights. Just because I don't believe the way you do, does not make me right and you wrong, or vice versa.

There are plenty of "mi-

past "sexual revolutions" requires the use of rational thought and open discourse. But the usual shutdown and censoring techniques for the science contained in this short missive is for censors to scream HATER or something-PHOBIA or "too much information" (TMI), hoping to shame overt truisms. Those Orwellian techniques work on the meek, but not with those who can't bring themselves to also affirm that the moon is made of green cheese and that little green men live on Mars. More significantly, we are those who campaign to protect children.

Transgenderism: Males who force you to affirm that they are females and vice versa for females, males who force you to affirm that they are females one day and males the next or both at the same time and vice versa for females, children whose so-called parents together with their so-called physicians collude to commit irreversible child abuse through chemical castration and surgical genital mutilation (the removal of breasts in girls and the surgical creation of fake penises, or the removal of real penises and testicles in boys) or adults who consent to same. Look it up in open-source, or very likely in your child's curriculum. See what the Biden Administration, the Democrats and the Democrat Platform support.

Matt Walsh, an analyst, in his episode 1267 *"nority" groups in this great country we call the United States of America. Together they may possibly form a majority. Perhaps old white males and females are still the largest single group, but even we do not all see things the same way. Diversity and the willingness to allow others to think and act differently is a major part of our history, and most assuredly our future.*

Remember that none of us

podcast, did a deep dive on the statistics behind the supposed "trans" violence that the November 20th Transgender Day of Remembrance commemorates. The Human Rights Campaign together with the Biden Administration, assert that over two dozen persons self-identified as Transgender were murdered because of their transgender identity. Upon investigation, there is no evidence that any of those deaths were the result of targeting transgender proclivity. Of course, drugs, "lover's spats", prostitution and/or criminal activity were at the intersection in most cases. So, we see that cults are known for turning lying into a museum quality artform.

If, as our local atheist writer believes that frogs turn into princes (with a monkey somewhere in between), the Alphabet People would not even exist let alone die-out through Darwinian evolutionary processes. So, in order for the transgender cult to "procreate", they must, like any successful cult, turn lead into gold by grooming the mentally weak and children through lies and mental manipulation. Ask yourself: Do we now live in Clown World? The only hope is Biblical Truth, but the minimum requirement for that solution is an open, humble, and receptive mind and spirit. A lot to ask. Ken Leavitt Sugar Hill, NH

are perfect. We have probably all told a lie, or a little white fib, from time to time. Not to hurt someone, but just because we could, or we chose to. That does not make us evil, or an outcast. It simply makes us human. Gary Scruton, Editor

Letter to the Editor

Write In Joe Biden!

Joe Biden's name will not appear on the New Hampshire Democratic Presidential Primary ballot, and we need to write it in and vote for him. We can show that he has momentum coming out of the first-in-the-nation primary. (A 2024 rules change by the Democratic National Committee has kept Joe Biden's name off the New Hampshire Presidential Primary ballot.)

Voting for Joe Biden will demonstrate our support for a leader who has already accomplished an incredible number of things during his three years as president. President Biden's domestic policies, work with the labor unions, support for reproductive freedom, and the legislation he has championed have had a major impact on our country, economically and environmentally. He has demonstrated exceptional foreign policy expertise, and brought the world to a

better place by building and re-building diplomatic bridges, energizing and strengthening NATO, supporting democracies, and negotiating for positive results in these most difficult times.

Let's help him continue to make Democracy work for everyone.

It's easy to write-in Joe Biden – 1) find the "write-in" line at the bottom of the list of candidates on your ballot, 2) fill in the bubble, 3) write in "Joe Biden." Your ballot will be counted.

You can vote via an absentee ballot, if you will be away or unable to vote in person on January 23rd. Contact your Town Clerk or go online to get your absentee ballot application.

Let's write in Joe Biden. We can make New Hampshire's Presidential Primary our very first victory in 2024.


Susan Moore, Franconia

Susan,

As an independent voter in New Hampshire I have many choices when I arrive at the polls on Primary day. My first choice is to ask for either a Republican or a Democrat ballot. Then I can choose whomever I wish of those listed, or write in a name as you point out. I have not yet seen either of the ballots for the January 23, 2024 primary. Even when I do I will keep my choice between myself and the ballot clerk. Furthermore, after casting my ballot I will visit the Supervisors of the Checklist and return my name to the "undeclared" voter section.

I have not missed an election in my state for many, many years. I strongly urge everyone to also take the time to vote. It matters not to me if you are a Democrat, a Republican, or Independent, it takes us all to form this great country. And voting is one of the best ways for our voices to be heard.

Gary Scruton, Editor



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Letter to the Editor:

"Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag rejected in Sugar Hill, NH"

The following request was made of the Sugar Hill Select Board members on Monday, November 27, 2023, and was rejected as of Monday, December 4, 2023.

Sugar Hill Select Board
November 27, 2023

Dear Members of the Sugar Hill Select Board,

As a former Boy Scout, Boy Scout leader, veteran Elementary/Middle School teacher, and Navy veteran, saluting our American Flag is a normal and patriotic activity done before all meetings, all daily classroom sessions, and each morning aboard ship at reveille. This duty makes me feel proud that my Italian immigrant grandparents came to this country so that I could experience a life of freedom and liberty. By immersing myself in English and American History, I grew up a proud American!

In time, and through study, I found that the US Constitution is the strongest document in the world for guaranteeing individual freedom and personal liberty through personal responsibility. Anyone can rise from poverty to immense wealth through our system of capitalism. Legal citizens of the United States have the same opportunities, and should display the same pride in our Constitutional Republic with its

personal guarantees in the Bill of Rights and its formation of the 3 levels of government and 3 branches of government, each serving as a check on the other, found in our US Constitution, which was adopted in 1789.

The Founders of this great Republic discovered an unworkable "unity" of the 13 former colonies under The Articles of Confederation. Becoming 13 independent states, after successfully beating the British in the Revolutionary War, each state had its own currency, adopted its own individual transportation tariffs, and ultimately could not pay their bills. With debt rising, a central or federal government was needed to combine the 13 individual, independent states into a unified government with one currency and agreed-upon policies. Trust among other nations needed to be created, and the 13 independent states had to pay their bills! Paying your bills promotes trust!

The Articles of Confederation were discarded, and serious negotiations and compromise among the 13 independent states proceeded in Philadelphia. After months of discussions, the Constitution of the United States was hammered out by Madison, Jefferson, Franklin, Patterson, Washington and Adams among others. It was decided that 2/3 of

the 13 states would be needed to ratify this new Constitution and form the new government known as the United States of America. On June 21, 1788, New Hampshire found itself in the enviable position of casting the vital, and, all-important vote for ratification of this new document, thus creating this new contract... called the US Constitution, and ultimately forming a new country called the United States of America. We, here in New Hampshire, bear a great responsibility in carrying on our unique heritage! Saluting the symbol of our new country, which is our American Flag, promotes legitimacy to our rule of law, to our governmental agencies at all levels and branches, to our citizenship, to our entire way of life and economy. The Sugar Hill Select Board, the Sugar Hill Planning Board, the Sugar Hill Zoning Board, the Sugar Hill Board of Trustees, the Sugar Hill Improvement Association, the Sugar Hill Cemetery Board of Trustees, the Sugar Hill Library Board of Trustees and all other town boards and departments, representing the citizens of the United States of America and the citizens the great state of New Hampshire and the citizens of the newest NH town, ie Sugar Hill, should start their monthly meetings/Budget

Hearing/Annual Meeting with the recitation of The Pledge of Allegiance to the symbol, also known by various other honorable titles, "the Stars and Stripes," "Old Glory," "the Star-Spangled Banner" of our great and unique country, the United States of America.

Since millions of US servicemen and women in all branches of our military have sacrificed their lives and limbs for our continued way of life, thus allowing members of this community to serve on these little town boards, I respectfully request that a town resolution be enacted by the Sugar Hill Select Board and the townspeople of Sugar Hill, NH reciting the 10-second, or so, "Pledge of Allegiance to our American Flag," the sacred symbol of our great country. As is customary with the honors due our Flag, those wishing not to recite "The Pledge" may stand reverently and respectfully, not infringing on the rights and privileges of those who wish to pay such homage to our history, to our culture, to our veterans, and to other personnel who make our American way of life continue to survive.

Respectfully,
Nick De Mayo, M. Ed.
Sugar Hill, NH

Nick,

I would assume you are aware, but I will mention it as it is not good to assume. A resolution such as this, as it was rejected by the Select Board, could be brought to your town meeting in the form of a petitioned warrant article. You should check with your Town Clerk to be sure it is properly

done, but getting a petition with signatures of a certain number of registered voters in your town, should place it in front of all voters to make a decision.

Gary Scruton, Editor & veteran

Letter to the Editor:

The fact that the Republican leadership in NH knew about Representative Troy Merner's move before the start of the legislative season is so frustrating. This representative voted with the Republican party 95% of the time. He voted against the greenhouse gas emission reduction goal, to net zero by 2050; voted for penalties for health care providers who violate the state ban on abortion after 24 weeks; voted to increase the household income limit for Education Freedom Accounts from 300% to 350% of federal poverty guidelines; voted against larger electric gen-

erators participation in net metering; removed the authority of DHHS to require vaccinations; voted against 30-day to 6 month notice period before a rent increase; voted against raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour; voted against expanding background checks for firearms; voted against mail-in voting; voted against State-run marijuana legalization with state-run stores, or home growing or private stores; voted against local zoning changes for housing development, and the list goes on. (per Citizens Count) Troy Merner says he was encouraged to stay on in the po-

sition by the Republican leadership, according to recent reporting. The leadership in the House is just as much at fault as Troy because of their need for power and lack of respect for the North Country.

We already have fewer representatives than we used to; having such a puppet under fraudulent circumstances takes the cake.

Kathleen Kelley
Randolph Citizen

same number of voters as any other representative. These districts get changed every ten years to reflect population changes. But residency has been, and certainly should be, an unchangeable regulation. I would suggest that further investigation be done either by the House of Representatives or some other entity if need be.

Gary Scruton, Editor

Kathleen,

How Representative Troy Merner votes should not be the issue. What I gather from your letter is that Mr. Merner moved out of his district sometime between his election and the time of his taking a seat in the NH State Legislature. That does not sound correct or proper to me. There are rules about how Representative seats are set up. Each representative is supposed to represent about the



TRENDY KITCHEN

by **Cindy Pinheiro**
to contact **Cindy**
(aka **Cin Pin**)
write to the editor at
April@trendytimes.com

Walnut Cookies



Hello hello my fellow chefs! How are you all doing today? I'm okay now but Thanksgiving day I got a terrible stomach flu. Nauseous and very sick stomach with a migraine headache and a 101 fever for 4 days. I did get my flu shot and Covid shot but still got so sick. I couldn't get out of bed and the poor dogs were so good. They knew something was wrong and I could barely let them out. When I started to feel better I was so exhausted I was useless. I was supposed to go to meet up with my Nick and grandchildren Angelo, Abigail and Arlo at a skating rink where Angelo had a hockey tournament in NH. Needless to say I couldn't go. Angelo got the winning goal and they were so excited. I was bummed about missing seeing them. Hopefully I'll take a trip to RI before Christmas. Fingers crossed!

Today's recipe is super easy peasy and yes they are "Delicioso ". I had company, Anthony and Kerri Whitcomb and their beautiful baby girl Mercedes and shared some cookies with them and they approved and loved them. They were my taste testers. So let's get started with today's recipe and how to make these great cookies.

- Ingredients**
- 1/2 cup butter softened (1 stick)
 - 1 cup brown sugar packed
 - 1 large egg
 - 1 tsp vanilla extract
 - 2 cups all purpose flour
 - 1/2 tsp baking soda
 - 1/4 tsp salt
- Walnut filling**
- 1 cup walnuts chopped
 - 1/2 cup brown sugar
 - 1/4 cup sour cream
- For the brown sugar I used light brown because that's what I had but if you

have dark brown sugar use it the color of the cookie will be a bit darker. I also used my food processor to chop the walnuts.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and line your cookie sheet with parchment paper. In your electric mixer cream butter and sugar until smooth and combined add the egg and vanilla extract and mix well. In separate bowl mix flour, baking soda and salt and whisk to mix. Add dry ingredients a little at a time to wet ingredients and mix well. In small bowl mix your walnuts, brown sugar and sour cream until combined. With your cookie scoop, scoop the dough and roll into a ball and press lightly a thumb print and fill with walnut filling. They do spread a little so put 2" apart. I ended up with 20 cookies. Bake for 11-14 minutes just until starting to brown. It will depend on your oven and your cookie sheet. I used a new cookie sheet I had that was a bit thicker than my other one so my cookies took 14 minutes but if your cookie sheet is thin they will cook much faster. Don't burn. Remove from oven and let cool on baking sheet for 5 minutes then place cookies on wire rack to finish cooling. And you are done. Yummy cookies.

Enjoy with coffee, tea or milk. I think you should try these wonderful cookies for Christmas. Your family will love them and you will be a star.

Santa will enjoy!!!

Well folks that's it for today's recipe. Remember if you have any questions please contact April and I will help you out.

Enjoy your Christmas holiday my friends, stay safe and healthy. May all your Christmas dreams come true. Until next time I am signing off,
Sincerely,
Cin Pin


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