

A FREE PUBLICATION

Happy New Year

Next Issue: Tuesday, January 14  
Deadline: Thursday, January 09

# TRENDY TIMES

Po Box 43, South Ryegate, VT 05069  
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December 31, 2024 VOLUME 16, NUMBER 08



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# TRENDY Dining Guide

### Horse Meadow Senior Center Menu for January 2025

- Congregate Dining & Take Out are available from 11:30-12:30  
 All meals include bread, milk & juice, salad bar  
 Coffee Bar is open from 8:00-3:00  
 1/1 CLOSED Happy New Year  
 1/2 Roasted Chicken, Baked Potato, Carrots  
 1/3 Tacos, Rice & Beans, Beets, Fruit  
 1/6 8am Community Breakfast; Lunch 11:30 Meatloaf, Sweet Potato, Peas/Carrots, Apples  
 1/7 Cheese Tortellini w/Sauce, Asparagus, Oranges  
 1/8 Tuna Sandwich, Three Bean Salad, Pears ~ Music by: The BOYZ  
 1/9 Shepherd's Pie, Beets, Blueberry Muffin  
 1/10 Hot Dog, Beans, Carrots, Cornbread  
 1/11 Saturday ~ Open Mic, Food at 5:30 Music 6-8  
 1/13 7:30 Men's Breakfast; Lunch 11:30 Chicken/Broccoli/Rice Casserole, Apple-sauce W/Raisins  
 1/14 Baked Fish, Rice/Beans, Mixed Veggies  
 1/15 Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Broccoli, Garlic Bread, Bananas  
 1/16 Parmesan Pork, Carrots, Rice Pilaf  
 1/17 Deconstructed Chicken Pot Pie, Tossed Salad, Oranges  
 1/20 CLOSED Civil Rights Day  
 1/21 3 Bean Chili, Banana Muffin, Broccoli  
 1/22 Sausage-Rice Casserole, Black Beans, Carrots, Apples  
 1/23 Sweet & Sour Meatballs, Rice, Mixed Veggie  
 1/24 Beef Stew, Peanut Butter Sandwich, Pears  
 1/27 7:30 Men's Breakfast; Lunch 11:30 Lasagna, Green Beans, Garlic Bread, Peach Crisp  
 1/28 Turkey Gravy, Mashed Potato, Carrots, Rolls ~ Music by HCMS Choir @ 10:45  
 1/29 Chicken Cacciatore, Brown Rice, Spinach, Fruit  
 1/30 BBQ Pork Chop, Sweet Potato, Mixed Veggies  
 1/31 Chef's Choice

*Trendy Dining Guide Ads*  
**This size is \$200 for 6 Issues**  
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For More Details  
 Contact Gary @ 603-747-2887  
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# OBITUARY: Edward Nelson Sargent,

Edward Nelson Sargent age 69 of Pike, NH passed away at his home on December 6, 2024. Edward was born September 20, 1955, in Hanover NH, to Oris N Sargent and Janice A (Grant) Sargent. He grew up in Pike and attended school in Woodsville. Edward worked at HG Woods for many years before retiring from the Veneer mill.

He married Kathy (Kelley) on September 7, 1991, in Pike, NH. Together, they combined their families and had four children. He enjoyed fishing, old cars, Harleys and watching old western movies or Sponge Bob. He loved fixing up old cars and riding snowmobiles. He had a great sense of humor and enjoyed pulling pranks on anyone who would let him. He was always the first to lend a helping hand and worked as hard as he could for his family. He was always happiest with a grandbaby in his arms. He loved spend-

ing time with his grandkids more than anything.

Edward is survived by his wife Kathy of Pike; four children, Christina (Steve) Bolles of Bradford VT, James (Faith) Kelley of Sutton NH, Michael (Jessica Allen) Wright of Bradford VT, and Derrick (Juli) Kelley of Rumney NH; nineteen grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; two siblings, Orin Sargent of Pike, and Bonnie (Philip) Tompson of Pike.

He was preceded in death by his parents Oris N. and Janice A. Sargent, father-in-law James Kelley, and mother-in-law Arlene Kelley

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

To offer the family an online condolence, please visit [www.rickerfh.com](http://www.rickerfh.com) Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is assisting the family with arrangements.



*Cyndi Wellman*

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## THANK YOU

*The American Legion Auxiliary Unit #20 would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who purchased a memory tree bulb in memory of a loved one during this Christmas season. We appreciate all of your support for this project and other activities we have throughout the year. Have a safe and healthy new year.*

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**OBITUARY:**  
**Barbara Elliott,**

Barbara Elliott, 79, passed away peacefully at her home in Ryegate, VT on Saturday, December 14, 2024, following several weeks of comforting care from Caledonia County Home Health and Hospice. She was born in Orange, New Jersey on September 4, 1945, and lived in North Jersey until her father died in 1950 when she moved to the Jersey Shore. She attended elementary school in Spring Lake and graduated from Manasquan High School class of 1963 where she was a member of the cheerleading squad. She started her working career at age 13 babysitting for the owners of the Spring Lake Chateau. From 1964-1967 she was a full-time service representative for NJ Bell Telephone Company, attending college in the evenings. She attended college full-time starting in 1967 while waitressing 45 hours a week. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Monmouth University in June of 1970. She started her teaching career in the Lakewood, New Jersey school system teaching 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades in her 11 years there. She continued her education receiving a reading specialist certificate and master's degree in Guidance. She also initiated and instructed the Spruce Street Dramatic Arts and Dance Club. During this time, through determination and frugality, she managed to purchase a small home for herself and her mother—a significant achievement for a young woman at the time. She met her husband on a blind date in Haverhill, NH in the Fall of 1979. They were married in June of 1981, and she moved to Ryegate where she continued her teaching career in the Blue Mountain District until retiring in 2010. She had exceptional skills

as an educator and was admired for that talent by her peers. She was proud of her class plays which were remembered long after they were performed. She loved and was loved by her students and always welcomed them to her home for an end-of-the-year party. A 4th-grade student captured her essence in the classroom writing "The ABCs of Mrs. Elliott." Barbara was found to be always happy, beautiful, caring, delightful, everybody's friend, friendly, great, helpful, interesting, jolly, knowledgeable, lively, merry, nice, oldish, polite, quizzical, really funny, smiley, terrific, unique, very mystical, and wonderful. She was all of those things and more. She was also a yucky bully stopper and zap perfect.

She was a fixture with her breakfast club at the P and H Truck Stop prior to and after her retirement and also at the lunch counter at Tuttle's Family Diner. She volunteered at the Wells River Welcome Center for 25 years and was a docent at her beloved state capitol in Montpelier where she had taken her classes for many years. She spent a couple of months in Florida for several years, taking 2 years off when her daughter gifted her another grandchild. She loved to ride her bike, take long evening strolls, and sit by the pool. Growing up at the Jersey Shore she never learned to swim, but she knew how to bask in the sun. She was always on the back deck whenever the sun made its occasional visit to Vermont.

Barbara made beautiful award-winning quilts. She liked Jumbles, dogs and cats, French toast and coffee, Nancy Griffith, Judy Collins, ladybugs, and the beach. She liked to dance, going to the post office, John Denver, VW Beetles

(hers was blue), shrimp scampi, and strawberry crepes with whipped cream. She liked Casablanca, Doc Martin, Mid-somer Murders, Polly's Pancake Parlor, and soft vanilla ice cream. But most of all, she loved people. Special people are those who never step out of character. Barbara was special. She was the same day in and day out, year in and year out. Whenever she went, wherever she went, she treated everybody the same, with a warm smile and a kind word. She made people feel happy. Whoever is in charge of angels, we thank you for Barbara. We only wish you could have left her with us longer.

She was predeceased by her parents and infant daughter Stephanie. She is survived by her husband Stephan Elliott; daughter Clarissa Kendall and her husband Nicholas and grandchildren Ainsley, Casey, Elliott, Bailey, and Corey; stepdaughter Trish Griswold and her husband Gerald and step-granddaughter Mackenzie; brother-in-law Garry Elliott and his wife Elaine and their children Ben, Carol, and Hannah; and hundreds of students who gave her so much joy that she had to pass it on to others.

Calling hours will be held at Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville on Friday, December 27th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM. A service will follow on Saturday, December 28th at 12:00 PM at the Woodsville United Methodist Church. A burial will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 10:00 AM at the Ladd Street Cemetery in Haverhill.

Donations in Barbara's memory may be made to the Woodsville United Methodist Church, Kathy Hatch, Treasurer, 45 Melody Lane, Woodsville, NH 03785.

To offer the family an online condolence, please visit [www.rickerfh.com](http://www.rickerfh.com) Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is assisting the family with arrangements.



**OBITUARY:**  
**Daniel M O'Brien,**

Daniel M O'Brien, 78, Lincoln, died suddenly on Thursday December 26, 2024. He was born in Cambridge, MA to George and Gloria (MacDonald) O'Brien. He is survived by his two children, Kevin O'Brien and Kelly Burrows. In accordance with Dan's wishes there will not be public services.

To offer the family an online condolence, please visit [www.rickerfh.com](http://www.rickerfh.com)

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




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# Calendar of Events

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

## 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"

Mt. Moosilauke Highway, Pike, NH

Phone: jo anne at 603-787-6658

## 2nd Wednesday monthly

NEKCA Mobile Food Shelf,

Groton Free Public Library

## 3rd Friday Monthly

NEKCA Mobile Food Shelf,

Baldwin Memorial Library, Wells River

## WEEKLY EVENTS AT:

### CLIFFORD MEMORIAL BUILDING

South Court Street, Woodsville

### PICKLEBALL

Tuesday & Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM

Saturday mornings at 9:00-10:30 AM

### LINE DANCING every Wednesday evening

6:00 - 7:00 PM

### ANTIQUÉ STROLLERS WALKING PROGRAM

Monday – Friday from 11:00-12:30

Clifford Building, North Haverhill

### FOLK MUSIC JAM - 1st and 3rd Saturdays at

10am, Pope Library (Community Center) in

Danville, VT.

"Back porch style", sit in a circle and take turns choosing a tune/song. Listeners welcome.

For more info or to confirm date contact (library) 802-684-2256 or (Vicki) 802-535-6069.

June 1

July 6

August 10

September 7

October 5

November 2

December 7

Lisbon Area Historical Society Museum

Late in Arriving: How Electricity Changed Rural NH

Jan15 2025 7pm

### *HMSC Activities for January*

Mon-Fri Games & Puzzles are ongoing, Craft room is open daily except during scheduled groups.

Every Monday: 9:30 Chair Yoga, 1:00 Drums Alive, 1:00 Cards & Cribbage

Other Mondays: 1/6 @ 8AM Community Breakfast, 1/13 & 1/27 @ 7:30 Men's Breakfast

Every Tuesday: 9:00 Plastic Canvas, 9:30 Bone Builders, 10:30 Kids Ballet Class, 11:00 Interfaith Chat, 12:30 Discovery Bible Group, 1:00 Food Pantry, 1:00 Popcorn & Movie

Other Tuesdays: 1/28 @ 10:30 WGSB will give a presentation on Artificial Intelligence and The Middle School Chorus will entertain at 10:45

Every Wednesday: 9:30 Chair Yoga, 10:00 Food Pantry, 10:30 Kids Jazz Class, 1:00 Bingo, 1:00 Drums Alive.

Other Wednesdays: 1/8 @ 10:00 Veterans Coffee & at 10:30 Ask a Nurse, also The BOYZ will entertain at 11:00, 1/15 @ 10:00 Book Discussion

Every Thursday: 9:30 Bone Builders, 1:00 Food Pantry, 1:00 Adult Ballet, Music by Phyllis Vogel from 11:15-12:30

Other Thursdays: 1/2 @ 12:30 Hymn Sing with Byron, Crafts on 1/9 & 1/23 @ 10:30, Paint & Sip on 1/16 @ 12:00, 1/2 & 1/16 @ 12:30 Herbal with Elaine

Every Friday: 12:30 Mahjongg, 1:00 Popcorn & Movie, 1:00 Senior Strengthening

Other Fridays: 1/10 Floral with Jane

Saturday: 1/11 Open Mic food service at 5:30/Music 6:00-8:00

## *Upcoming Events*

Haverhill Rec

Acoustic Music Jams The jams are once per month, held at the Clifford Memorial Building

65 South Court St. Woodsville from 12-3.

January 5

February 2

March 2

April 6

May 4

# Thomson Tree Farm on Mt Cube, Orford, NH

## **OBITUARY:** *William "Bill" Albert Cassidy*



South Ryegate, VT, William "Bill" Albert Cassidy, 78 of Scott Hwy, died unexpectedly at his second home in The Villages, FL on Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

Bill was born in Miami, FL on August 23, 1946, to Durwood and Pauline (Allen) Cassidy. On September 23, 1977, he married Marjory (Farrow) Cassidy. He grew up in South Ryegate and attended St. Johnsbury Trade School.

He worked for many years in construction as a mechanic that led him to own and operate Cassidy Crane Service. Bill was a hard worker; he started working on cars while he was a kid in South Ryegate at his father's garage. He never met a mechanical problem he couldn't master. Bill could not sit idle and never fully retired.

In his free time, he loved to ride motorcycles, go snowmobiling and travel. He loved to spend the winters in FL.

Bill is survived by his five children, Janice Hatch and husband Preston and their children Bradley Cassidy and Scott Hatch; Jodi Hart and partner Randy and her children Patrick Hart, Jr. and Courtney Hart Brigante; Michael Davidson and wife Debra and their daughter Tonya Bonvouloir; Denise Baril and husband Rick and their children David Burroughs

III, Devin Burroughs, Danielle Burroughs, Carson Baril, Noah Baril and Tristain Baril; Christopher Davidson and wife Lori with their children Mark Davidson, Cooper Davidson and Camden Davidson. 19 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild. Brother Michael Cassidy and brother in-law Cedric Farrow and nieces, nephews and cousins. Extended family, Phil and Patti, Bob and Laurianne and Wally and Karen.

Along with his parents, he was predeceased by his wife Marjory on May 30, 2020.

Calling hours will be Friday January 31, 2025, from 5-7 PM at Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville, 1 Birch St. Woodsville, NH. Memorial Service will be Saturday February 1, 2025, at 11AM at the funeral home. Interment will be at Peacham Village Cemetery on Saturday May 31, 2025, at 10AM.

Memorial contributions may be made to River Bend Career and Technical Center, Attn: Tracy Puffer, 36 Oxbow Drive, Bradford, VT 05033.

To offer the family an online condolence, please visit [www.rickerfh.com](http://www.rickerfh.com) Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is assisting the family with arrangements.



*Photos, Left to Right, Bottom*

**Captions: 1. Iowa State University forestry Students and Professors in our small Classroom at our new Building. 2. Students and Professors enjoying one of the water falls our the Tree Farm**  
**3. I asked the Students if they would like me to get a photo of them on the Appalachian Trail (AT) and they all said yes, the AT borders our Tree Farm.**  
**Jim Frohn our County Forester is on the very left.**

**June 30, 1939 - October 22, 2024**

This past September 26, 2024 I gave a tour on our Tree Farm to 19 Forestry Students from the Iowa State University and two Professors. I was contacted by Jim Frohn our Grafton County Extension Forester who asked if I would be willing to give them a tour of our Tree Farm, which I said, Yes.

Unfortunately we had rain that day, but that did not bother the students as they were well prepared with rain gear. The Assistant Professor (William Beck) is also the Iowa Tree Farm Program Chair. When I first met the students, I told them I thought they grew corn in Iowa not trees. The Tree Farm Chair told me they have 3 million acres of forestland, with 1000 certified Tree Farmers. Above are some photos taken at our Tree Farm and our Small Forest Educational Building. . Tom

**RICH CLIFFORD**  
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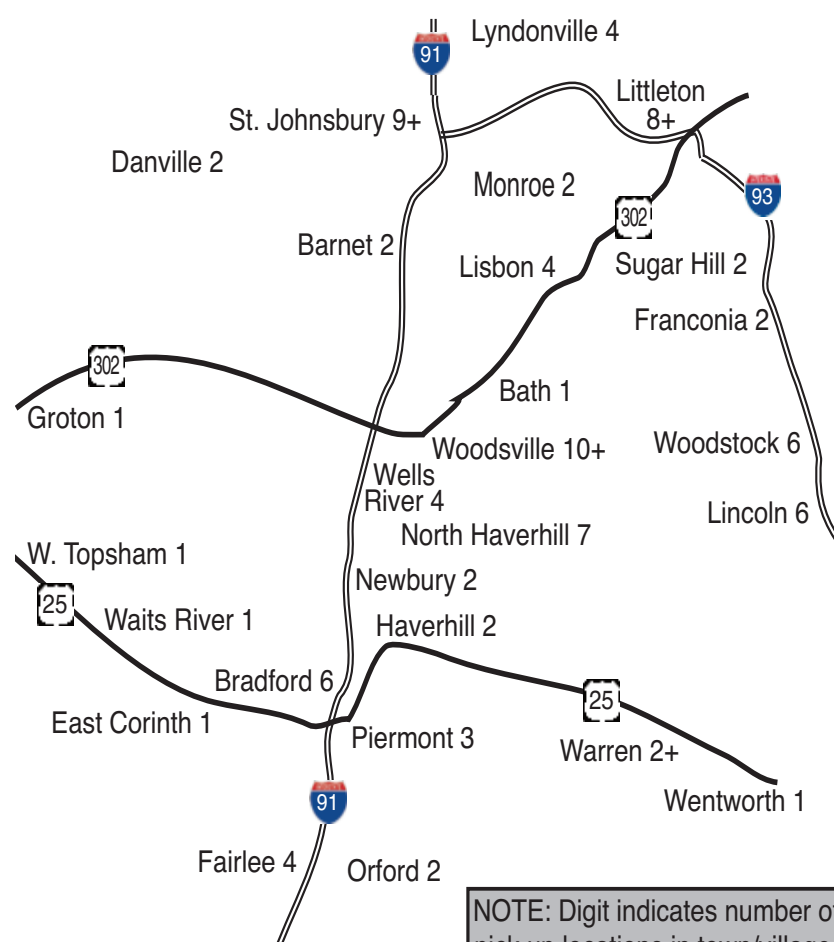
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Not All Times Are Trendy, But There Will Always Be Trendy Times





**OBITUARY:**  
*Judith  
Henriette  
Gobeil  
Ferren,*

North Haverhill, NH – Judith Henriette Gobeil Ferren, 78, passed away on Thursday, November 28, 2024, at Cottage Hospital. She was born on April 25, 1946, to Helen Desneige (Abbott) and Joseph T. Gobeil in Peterborough, NH.

Judith married at a young age and started a family with her first husband Dennis C. Gale, they had four children together. A little later on in life she met Dennis J. Ferren and they were wed on April 16, 1976, and they had one child together, and Judith gained three step-children.

Judith is predeceased by her husband Dennis J. Ferren, Jr.; her daughters Wendy Ann Gail, and Debra Lynn Gillis; her parents Helen and Joseph Gobeil; her siblings, James Gobeil, Constance McKnight, Clara Vacare, Charles Gobeil and Janet Gobeil.

She is survived by her children; Denise C. Gale, Dennis C. Gale, and Jennifer Dawn Ferren; her step-children, Ray A. Ferren, Claude M. Ferren, and Dennis M. Ferren.

Judith will be laid to rest next to her husband Dennis Ferren in Errol, NH in the spring.

To offer the family an online condolence, please visit [www.rickerfh.com](http://www.rickerfh.com)

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



**OBITUARY**  
*Laurence  
M  
Page,*

Laurence M Page, 68, Wells River, VT, went to be with his Lord at his home on Thursday December 19, 2024. He was born in Boston, MA on October 28, 1956, to Henry E. and Velma (Thayer) Page.

He attended Lebanon High School and upon receiving his diploma found work with WNNE in White River Jct. VT, and soon after with VT PBS as a Maintenance Engineer, maintaining broadcast towers and studio equipment. He retired in November of this year when his health no longer allowed him to work. Laurence was an avid motorcyclist, and enjoyed collecting and restoring motorcycles, and going on motorcycle vacations with his friends. He was an active member of the Christ Redeemer Church in Hanover, NH

Laurence is predeceased by his parents, and his godparents, Malcom and Trudy McFarland. He is survived by a stepson Gary Zigman of Williston, VT; two sisters, Barbara Barnes of NC and Virginia Crean of Wells River; nephews, Nathan, Robert, and Daniel; his longtime companion, Wendy Fedchenko of Lebanon, NH; as well as many close friends.

There will be a memorial service on Saturday January 4, 2025, at 1PM at Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville, 1 Birch St. Woodsville, NH. Those who wish may make donations in lieu of flowers to Christ Redeemer Church, Building Fund, PO Box 5523, Hanover, NH 03755 or <https://www.christredeemerchurch.org/give> To offer the family an online condolence, please visit [www.rickerfh.com](http://www.rickerfh.com) Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is assisting the family with arrangements.

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Trendy Times reserves the right to accept or reject publication of any letter to the editor or submission of any nature for any reason. *Of course you will need to be really out there for us to turn you down.* We also reserve the right to make slight changes to submissions for readability purposes. Please limit submissions to 600 words or less.

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## SERVICES

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# LETTERS

(and even some real words)

## From The Editor

You can have your own opinion.....

But, Mr. Bolt, you can't have your own facts.

Donald Trump was convicted on 34 felony counts by a jury of his peers, all picked by his attorneys and the prosecution's attorneys just like all jury trials. That trial happened because an indictment was handed down by a grand jury, chosen at random out of the populace to hear the facts in the case, which they thought were believable enough to warrant having to go to trial in court. He is a felon. Undisputed fact and not opinion.

Donald Trump was convicted of sexual abuse against E. Jean Carroll, again by a jury of his peers, chosen in the same manner. The judge in the case clarified that Mr. Trump's conviction was, in fact, a rape conviction under a different legal name (Washington Post, 7/19/2023). Again, undisputed fact and not opinion.

And Mr. Trump had his hands all over the creation of "Project 2025". His campaign rhetoric was filled with many of the same things found in the document. Many of the authors of and contributors to Project 2025 were aides and confidantes of the former president. When Project 2025 was discovered, it was found to be so unpopular that Mr. Trump's

*Rachael,*

*There are plenty of sayings about opinions. Unfortunately there are also many opinions about facts. There is also a school of thought that even facts can be moved around in order to prove one side or the other of any given circumstance. So facts are great, but they do not always tell the entire and complete story.*

*Trendy Times hopes to continue to offer this space to writers who want to offer up their set of facts as well as their set of opinions. Or, more probably, their combination of the two. After all, it is with discussion that progress is made. Take the time to listen as much as you talk and it can be amazing how much you can learn.*

*Gary Scruton, Editor*

campaign advisors told him to distance himself from it, denying any knowledge of it and what it contains. Mr. Trump's name and his past administration are mentioned in the document hundreds of times. One of the authors of the document was heard in a secretly recorded audio that Trump had "blessed Project 2025 and was very supportive of it (Forbes 8/15/2024). All you have to do is look at the list of authors and contributors of the document that have been put forward to be part of his next administration to know that he knew exactly what it was about. These people, when in office with him, will do their best to implement everything they wrote. And if you still think that Donald Trump wouldn't lie about his involvement in it, just look at his record from his previous four years when he lied about everything from inauguration crowd size, to how COVID wasn't all that dangerous and would just fade away in a few months, to the 30,571 other lies he told altogether (Washington Post 1/24/2021).

Sorry for bringing up those pesky facts again. I will continue to do so when I read LTEs mostly devoid of anything but opinions.

Rachael Booth  
Landaff, NH

On the Mark  
To the Editor,

First, I would like to take this opportunity to compliment Alex Foryan for his excellent article (Trendy Times, December 17, 2024). He succinctly pointed out the many areas that President Trump will make a positive impact towards making America great again (MAGA). He won the November election in a landslide, further reinforcing the many polls that showed the vast majority of the American public felt that the country was headed in the wrong direction. To add salt to the proverbial wound, President Biden's approval rating has dropped to 34 percent, the lowest since he took office in 2021, according to a recent poll (Dec. 2-11) by The Marquette Law School. The fact that 77,285,106 (NBC Dec. 17) citizens overwhelming voted for Donald Trump, while also winning all the swing states, truly attests to the dissatisfaction that the public had with the disastrous policies of the Biden Administration.

It is interesting that all those individuals who were highly critical of Donald Trump in this publication, and had nothing

but praise for Biden and Harris are suddenly silent. I guess reality has finally hit home.

We will soon have a President elect and a Border Czar designee who finally will take securing the border and solving the country's crime spree seriously. President elect Trump and Border Czar, Tom Homan, will certainly have their work cut out for them. The Biden Administration has left the incoming Trump Administration with several serious disasters with which to contend. Let's take a brief look at what the incoming administration will have ahead of them. Due to the Biden Administration's flawed policies, we now have well over 11 million illegal aliens in the United States (Pew Research, a/o 2022). The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) released figures that as of July 2024, there were 435,719 non-citizens with criminal convictions in its database. Most of these individuals have been released by the Biden Administration and are roaming freely in the country, and these are the ones of which we are aware. The murders and rapes of Laken Riley,

Kate Steinle, Jeremy Pooou Caceres (age 2), Rachel Morin, Jocelyn Nungaray (age 12, tortured for 2 hours under a bridge) and many others at the hands of illegal aliens, is a direct result of Biden Administration policies. Did we hear any apologies from Biden or Harris? Tren de Aragua, the notorious and brutal Venezuelan criminal gang is now terrorizing citizens in at least 16 states across the country (Newsweek, Nov. 20, 2024). The Biden Administration seems helpless or unwilling to deal with this issue, as well as the tragic deaths of thousands of Americans due to the illegal importing of fentanyl and other drugs into the country, and the sex trafficking of women and children all by the notorious Mexican cartels.

Fortunately, the American people saw through the lies, coverups and incompetence of the Biden/Harris Administration and elected a new team to right the ship. Yes, Alex Foryan was right on the mark with his all-inclusive comments.

Robert Briggaman  
North Concord, VT

*Robert,*

*I will agree with you that the immigration system of the United States is broken. The southern border has gotten plenty of headlines, but the issue, I believe, is much deeper. Even locally there are reports of undocumented people working at jobs and being paid. This happens, again according to reports I have heard, because the employers can not find locals to work those jobs. There is a system to allow certain people the right to come to the US to work. But apparently that system does not allow for enough people, or the paper work is too drawn out, or something else is flawed. I don't know how to fix it, but I know it needs to be fixed.*

*I certainly do hope that the influx of illegals can be controlled. Not to mention the import of illegal drugs that do so much damage to our population.*

*One point of yours that I must voice a bit of opposition to is your statement that President-elect Trump won in a landslide. I, personally, do not believe that a 1.5% difference in the popular vote equates to a landslide. A landslide is how President Ronald Reagan won two terms in 1980 and 1984.*

*Gary Scruton, Editor*

# Cohase Chamber Names Business and Citizen of the Year

The bi-state Cohase Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce its 2024 choices for Business of the Year and Citizen of the Year. The honorees will be celebrated at the Chamber's annual meeting on January 21, 2025 at Haverhill's Alumni Hall.

The North Haverhill Fair Association is the pick for Business of the Year. For the last 80 years, this organization has been drawing thousands of folks from far and wide to the Cohase region to enjoy the family fun and entertainment at their ever-growing five-day fair. With more and more Americans losing touch with 'where their food comes from' and losing their sense of community, the fair provides countless opportunities for folks, young and older, to show off their animals, crafts, foods, and businesses. This event brings us together as a greater community.

The well-developed and maintained facilities serve as an important community resource. When not being used for the annual fair, the fairgrounds are used by assorted

groups for private events and other public group activities. The NHFA board is very community-minded and welcoming, and they work diligently year-round to keep it all going.

The Board has selected Michael Thomas of Wells River as the Citizen of the Year. Most anyone who has lived or played in the region for any amount of time likely has crossed paths with Mike, as he has been a fixture in our region for 45 years.

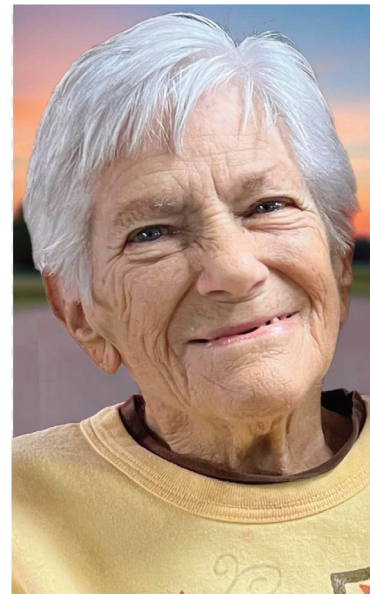
Mike's accomplishments include being the Chair of the Newbury Conservation Commission since its inception, founding member and Chair of Cross Vermont Trail Association, Wells River Village Trustee, and Board Member of the Wells River Action Program (WRAP). He has served on the Newbury Planning Commission and the Woodsville-Wells River 4th of July Committee.

Mike helped start, and continues to be the driving force behind, the Spring and Fall Paddle the Border events, helping folks in and out of their boats for 20 years! Mike has coached Little League, and he taught kids in the town of New-

bury how to cross country ski for free during the time he and his family operated a ski shop and touring Center in South Newbury. And finally, Mike's annual presence in the Woodsville-Wells River July 4 th parade is always a creative and memorable highlight.

We congratulate Mike Thomas on a life of giving back to the community – always in good cheer and putting a smile on the faces of others while doing so.

The January 21 st annual meeting is open to the public with all welcome to attend and participate (and learn more about the Cohase Chamber.) In addition to the Business and Citizen of the Year honors, attendees will also hear a short presentation about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and security - an important and timely topic. A fine buffet will be prepared and served by the great cooks at Alumni Hall with a cash bar available. Reservations are required (deadline of January 15th) and can be made via the Chamber website ([www.cohase.org](http://www.cohase.org)) or by calling 802-518-0030.



Mary Virginia Williams, affectionately known as "Miss Mary," passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 21, 2024, in palliative care at the Jack Byrne Center at Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital in Lebanon, New Hampshire. She was 80 years old.

Born on July 19, 1944, in Glendale, CA, Mary moved with her family to Pacific Palisades in 1953, where she spent her formative years. In 1990, she embraced a new chapter of life in Peacham, Vermont, a community she grew to love deeply. Mary purchased a farmhouse and immersed herself in rural living, caring for farm animals and contributing to the town in meaningful ways. She owned the local general store, mowed for the cemetery, and drove the school bus—acts that reflected her selflessness and dedication to her neighbors. A devoted member of the Peacham Congregational Church, Mary's faith and love for Jesus were guiding forces throughout her life.

Mary formed a close-knit circle of friends who became like family and was cherished by her neighbors at the Peacham Apartments. She also leaves behind her beloved

## OBITUARY: Mary Virginia Williams, "Miss Mary,"

cat, Katie Kitty, who brought her much comfort and companionship.

Mary was preceded in death by her sister Nancy Omo of Huntingdon, PA, and her daughter Kelly Stephens of Lake Elsinore, CA. She is survived by her sisters Jackie MacDonald and Linda Clapp; her sons Tom Cunningham and Tim Cunningham; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and extended family members Tom, Patty, and Liz Traina as well as Kim Russell.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Dr. Robert A. Potter; his son, Rev. Dr. Jeffrey M. Potter; and the entire Potter family for their unwavering support throughout Mary's life and especially during her final days.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring to honor Mary's memory.

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will have everlasting life." John 11:25-26

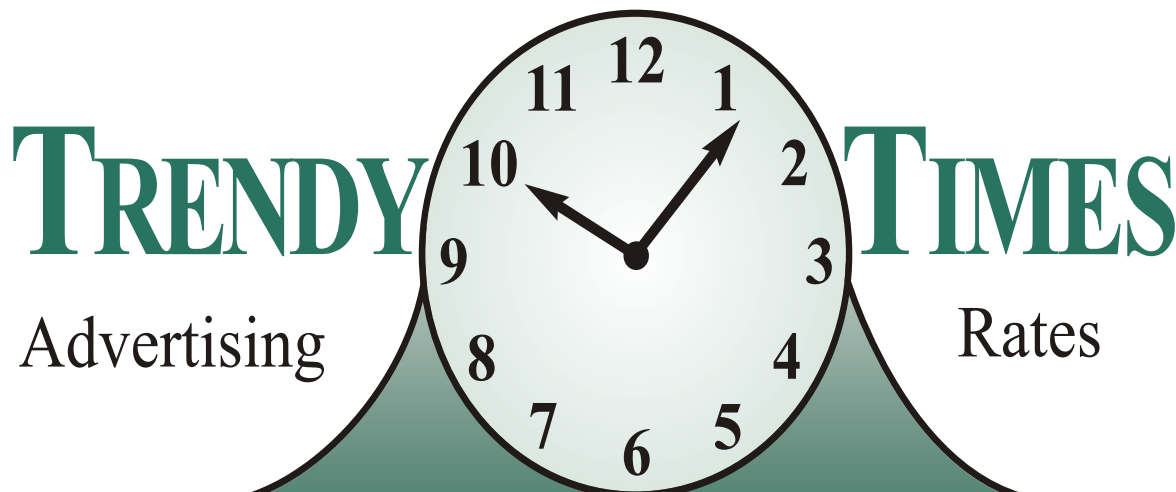
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 Fruit Muffin  
 Grapenut Pudding

January 21st: Baked Chicken                      Brian Blood Singing  
 Mashed Sweet Potato  
 Peas and Carrots  
 Roll  
 Stewed Fruit: date,prune,apricot,raisins,apple

January 28th: Broccoli Cheese Soup  
 Egg Salad Sandwich  
 Tropical Fruit

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**Open Gym Talking & Walking Program**  
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**Afternoon Pickleball**  
 Monday & Wednesdays from 2-4:00 PM

**Line Dancing**  
 Wednesday evenings 6-7:00 PM

**Evening Pickleball**  
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 and Saturday mornings 9-11:00 AM  
*Held at the Clifford Memorial Building*  
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# "Heard at the County..."

## Op-Ed by Nick De Mayo. Sugar Hill, NH

In response to Ron Willoughby, who is concerned about school spending in Haverhill, NH, ("Haverhill Taxpayers-Are you happy?", Caledonian-Record), he as well as all Grafton County residents/taxpayers should also be deeply concerned about spending at the Grafton County Complex. With all elected department heads (except DEEDS) of Grafton County government now in Democrat hands, the Democrats own all county tax increases to Grafton County residents/taxpayers during the next 2 years. There is a minority of Republicans which make up the County Delegation and the Executive Committee. It is the opinion of this writer that transparency at the County level is missing although the meetings are "open to the public." Questioning of department heads by members of the public is strictly forbidden. Invited department heads do not use their "public-speaking voices" when addressing those present leading the public to question, "What's happening?" Some Commissioners "mumble," making their comments and votes incomprehensible. Similarly, some Executive Committee members and some County Delegation members do not speak loudly enough, enunciate their words clearly enough, nor use their "public-speaking voices" to make clear to the public the items on which they're voting, approving/rejecting, and the spending of Grafton County taxpayers' monies. Some speak too quickly. The model of "Top-Down government" seems to be pervasive at the county level reminding this observer of Great

Britain's implementation of taxes prior to the American Revolution, leading to the phrase "taxation without representation!" Funds to the tune of thousands, hundreds of thousands, and millions of dollars are being spent by 3 people for a county that is 500 square miles bigger than Rhode Island! The Executive Committee seems to "rubber-stamp" the Commissioners' recommendations which is followed by additional "rubber-stamping" by the County Delegation.

The Grafton County Commissioners/County Delegation recently approved the spending of \$26,190.39 for a 30-gallon "crock pot" for the Nursing Home! There was a similar one online at a "Scratch 'N Dent" sale for \$21,000.00, a savings of \$5,190.39. Perhaps, more rigorous research is needed by department heads before requesting items to be replaced/installed, and paid for by the taxpayers?

Presently, the Grafton County Courthouse Building Committee is holding on-going meetings where plans call for replacing the current, 52-year-old courthouse with a new one, which, I was told, would cost (in 2025-2026 dollars!) between \$50 - \$60 million dollars. The architect and the Building Committee hope to have these plans solidified by June, 2025. Federal ARPA monies were used as "seed money" to hire the architect and engineer (\$214,645.00 plus a 15% contingency fee and additional fees for a geotechnical site survey). The bulk of funding for a new courthouse will be borne by the Grafton County taxpayers through a bond issue financed with local bank funding and interest over 30-years. There is no federal

money for this portion, just local tax money paid in our local, annual tax bill so that we can have another "monument to bureaucracy and bad planning." Questionnaires have been sent to the various departments as well as the Grafton Bar Association for their input as to design of the building based upon their needs and wants. These forms are due back by February, 2025.

The most egregious part of this whole scenario is that we, the taxpayers of Grafton County, get no direct vote as in a private, paper ballot (a referendum vote). It is my understanding that the vote process is comprised of the 3 Commissioners, the Executive Committee (9 members), and the County Delegation (24 NH State Representatives of Grafton County). From what I have observed (since June, 2024), there are no in-depth, probing questions being asked from the Delegation on behalf of the taxpayers. There doesn't seem to be any challenging opposition to quoted prices. Who's watching out for the taxpayer? With a \$36 Trillion federal debt, we need austerity and "number-crunching," don't you think? Representatives, sharpen your pencils!



## OBITUARY: D. Beverly Masure,

D. Beverly Masure, aged 88, entered eternal life on December 11, 2024, in Bradford, VT peacefully at home. Born on March 5, 1936, Beverly dedicated her professional life to serving others at Gore & Bancroft Pharmacy and Hanover Terrace as an LNA, before transitioning to a Unit Assistant at DHMC. She married the love of her life, Joseph C. Masure Jr., on September 25, 1954.

Beverly found joy in quilting, dancing, and spending time visiting with family, sharing moments that turned into cherished memories.

Beverly was a beloved member of her family, cherished by her children, Darryl Masure, Denise (Steve) Longmoore, and Delinda (Bill) Jordan; her sisters, Lois Swister and Emily Roy.

Grandchildren: Steven (Amy) Longmoore, BJ (Charlie) Davenport, Joseph Longmoore, McKayla Jordan, and Cody Jordan.

Great-Grandchildren: Tristan (Danielle) Longmoore, Lindsay (Tristan) Gray, Sierra, Aspen, and Tanner Longmoore; Derrick Davenport, Haley (Alex) Drost, Hunter (Lauren) Davenport, Abby and Nora Davenport; Annabell and Caleb Longmoore; Jada, Jaydon, and Lilliana Jordan.

Great-Great Grandchildren: Ava and Addison

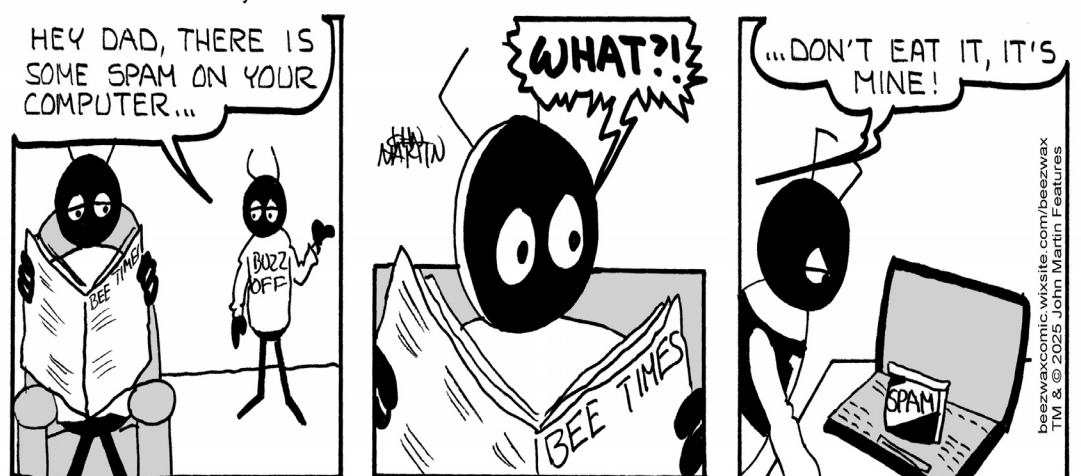
Gray, Bowden and Maverick Longmoore; Vivienne Drost, Olivia and Magnolia Davenport. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph C. Masure Jr., Solon A. Partridge (Father), Bertha (Lynaugh) Patridge (Mother), Winona Masure (Sister), Wendel Patridge (Brother), Solon Patridge (Brother), Frank Patridge (Brother), Bernice Allard (Sister), Howard Patridge (Brother), Warren Patridge (Brother), and Lina Berry (Sister).

A service to honor her life will be held on May 3, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at Sawyer Cemetery in Bradford, VT. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Dartmouth Health Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire at One Medical Drive, HB 7070, Lebanon, NH 03756, an organization that reflects her lifelong dedication to caregiving. Beverly's warmth, kindness, and spirited nature will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

To offer the family an online condolence, please visit [www.rickerfh.com](http://www.rickerfh.com) Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is assisting the family with arrangements.

### BEEZWAX By John Martin





# Glazed Blueberry Loaf Cake



Hello hello my fellow chefs! How are you all doing today? I hope your Christmas was jolly. I spent the day with my neighbors the Spencer family and we had such a good time. We enjoyed a wonderful ham dinner with tons of sides and desserts. I made today's recipe and brought it with me. Everyone enjoyed everything. After dinner we played a dice game called Right, Left, Center. We play with quarters instead of the chips and had so many laughs. I ended up winning the most which came with much ribbing. A great Christmas was had by all!

A couple of weeks ago I had food poisoning. It

lasted 5 days and it was so awful. I had a coupon for a sub sandwich and I ordered a steak and cheese with some veggies on it. It tasted good and I ate it. Then all of a sudden I got deathly sick. OMG it was totally awful, I thought I was dying. I spoke to my doctor and they were concerned that I would get dehydrated so I forced myself to sip water. Gee I don't get a lot of take out and now I'm so afraid of getting sick again, it'll be a while before I get another sub sandwich. Whew!

Today's recipe is so easy peasy and so "Delicioso" that you will make it again and again. I used frozen blueberries and

you don't thaw them. Leave them frozen until you are ready to fold in. If using fresh blueberries wash and dry then toss with 1 Tbsp flour. Let's get started with today's recipe and how to make it.

#### Ingredients

1 1/2 cups all purpose flour  
3/4 cup granulated sugar  
2 tsp baking powder  
1/2 tsp salt  
3/4 cup of milk  
1/4 cup vegetable oil  
1 large egg  
1/2 tsp vanilla extract  
1 1/2 Cups blueberries  
1 Tbsp sugar to sprinkle on top before baking.

#### Glaze ingredients

1 1/2 cups confectionery sugar  
1 Tbsp softened butter  
1/2 tsp vanilla extract  
2 1/2 Tbsp milk adding a little at a time

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour a 8 1/2" x 4 1/2 loaf pan. In large bowl mix with whisk the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. In separate small bowl mix milk, vegetable oil, egg and vanilla extract then mix liquid into flour mixture and whisk together just until blended. Fold in with spatula the frozen blueberries just until combined. If using fresh blueberries add now and combine. Pour batter into prepared pan and sprinkle on top with 1

Tbsp granulated sugar. Bake in preheated oven for 60-70 minutes until toothpick inserted into center comes out clean. Mine took 60 minutes so check after 60 minutes. Cool in pan on wire rack for 15 minutes then carefully remove cake and finish cooling on wire rack. While baking mix your glaze. Add to small bowl

1 1/2 cups confectionery sugar, 1 Tbsp softened butter (i microwaved mine for 20-25 seconds) 1/2 tsp vanilla extract and add the milk a little at a time and whisk to mix well. When the cake is cooled drizzle the glaze over the top, it will harden a bit. That's it you are done! Your family will love this cake and say you are a star. It's good for anytime you want a bite to eat with a cup of coffee, tea or milk. Yummy. Please give this recipe a try because you won't be disappointed.

Well folks that's it for today's recipe. The new year is fast approaching so I wish you all a very Happy New Year. May 2025 be a great year. Please stay safe and healthy my friends. Until next time I am signing off.

Sincerely,  
Cin Pin