

A FREE PUBLICATION

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TRENDY TIMES

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WORLD SPAY DAY FEBRUARY 25, 2025

In honor of World Spay Day, Rozzie May Animal Alliance (RMAA) in Conway, NH is offering a free microchip to one cat or dog at each February clinic. Recipients will be selected by a drawing on clinic day.

Spay USA was founded by Doris Day Animal League in 1995. This organization merged with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) in 2006 and under HSUS the program became known as World Spay Day. HSUS advocates spaying and neutering as a proven

means of saving the lives of companion animals, (feral and stray) cats and street dogs that might otherwise be euthanized or killed on the street.

Rozzie May Animal Alliance was founded by Roz Manwaring in 2007 to provide low-cost spay and neuter serv-

ices to the community for these animals. The local shelters were striving to provide services to address this

will be adopted but many will not and will end up with short, harsh lives outdoors or face euthanasia." As

the RMAA motto says, "Too many homeless animals...Let's Fix It!"

Rozzie May Animal Alliance provides low cost spay and neuter services at their clinic in Conway, NH. They provide a 'Cat Cab' service to many locations in New Hampshire and western Maine. Cats are picked up in the morning and returned the same day after surgery. Visit Rozzie May Animal Alliance on Facebook, at rozziemay.org or call 603-447-1373.

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TRENDY Dining Guide

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Monday 11:30-7PM	Friday 11:30- 8PM
Tuesday CLOSED	Saturday 11:30-8PM
Wednesday CLOSED	

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By; April Dyke

Sorry Due to this sick sea-
son going around I was
not able to do a Trendy
Dining Guide or even be
on the radio this past
week. It completely wiped
me out. Stay healthy out
there!!!



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For More Details
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OBITUARY: Richard G. McDanolds,

Richard G. McDanolds, 95, North Haverhill, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 10, 2025, after a period of failing health. He was born in Woodsville, NH on October 05, 1929 to Roe and Althea (Gilcrest) McDanolds. He graduated from Haverhill Academy and then from the University of New Hampshire. He met Inka Koski while a student at UNH and they married on October 10, 1953 in Newport, NH. He married Liela Wirkkala on February 29, 1996.

Richard and Inka moved to the family farm in North Haverhill where they raised their family. Richard was a founding board member of the North Haverhill Fair Association, which he served for over 75 years. He taught 4-H tractor driving and was a member of the Cohase Lions Club. He enjoyed dancing, tractor pulls, and 2-cylinder John Deere. Richard is predeceased by his parents, his first wife Inka McDanolds on July 22, 1983, his second wife Leila McDanolds on January 20, 2020, a son Wayne McDanolds on May 1, 2022, and an infant daughter Theresa McDanolds, two step-

daughters, Nancy and Annie Thibault.

He is survived by two sons, Stuart McDanolds and his wife Deb of North Haverhill, and Cory McDanolds and his wife Terri of North Haverhill; a step-daughter, Patricia Thibault of NV; four grandchildren, Philip McDanolds and his wife Andrea, Sara Asante and her husband Kwame, Heather Rodeck and her husband August, and Megan Harris and her husband George; eight great-grandchildren, Luke, Marshall, Landon, Nora, Lydia, Patricia, Aubrey, and Paige.

Calling hours will be Saturday January 21, 2025, from 2-4 PM. The burial will be held privately in the spring at the Horse Meadow Cemetery in North Haverhill.

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



OBITUARY: Charlotte Benzie Fadden

Charlotte Benzie Fadden, also known as Oma to her grandchildren and so many others moved on to her heavenly home on Saturday, January 11, 2025. She was 92 years old and passed at home surrounded by her loving family after several months of declining health.

Charlotte was born on May 14, 1932, in East Calais, VT to her parents Helen Peck Benzie and James John Benzie. She grew up with her family in Groton, VT, and graduated from Groton High School in 1950.

On October 18, 1952, Charlotte married the love of her life, Stanley "Stub" Fadden, and moved to Haverhill, NH where she and Stub spent the rest of their lives, most of it in North Haverhill. They had over 56 years together before Stub's death in 2009.

Charlotte had many jobs over the years as a telephone operator, school lunch worker, post office clerk, bookkeeper for Stub's Service Station, Fadden Automotive, and Fadden Racing, and many years as a scorer for Stub in his racing career. She was a member of the North Haverhill United Methodist Church where she taught Sunday School and served as Sunday School Superintendent for a few years. She was also a member of the local Eastern Star Order. But for Charlotte, her most important job was caring for her

family as a wife, mother, and grandmother. Family was everything to Charlotte, her own family, her siblings and their families, and the racing family she gained over her many years of involvement in the racing world. One member of that racing community commented upon learning of her death, "Charlotte made everyone feel loved" and she did! She was always loving and full of fun! Her love, good humor, and laughter will be remembered lovingly by all who knew her.

It is difficult to summarize 92 years of a life as full as Charlotte's but probably the best way to do it is to quote her signature phrase found on every card her family received from her, "God loves you and so do I".

Charlotte is predeceased by her parents, husband Stub, sister Marilyn Benzie (1935), sister Ina Corthell (2008), and brother Melvin Benzie (2014). She is survived by her 2 children, daughter Charlene Aldrich and husband John, son Alvin Fadden and wife Diana; 6 grandchildren, Mike Olsen and wife Vicki, Heather Rochefort and husband David, Amy Kopp and husband Keith, Todd Aldrich and wife Maryanne, Travis Fadden and wife Kelsey, and Abby O'Donnell and husband Derrick. 15 great-grandchildren, Ryan Olsen and wife Samantha, Garrett Olsen, Matthew Kopp and wife Janelle, Emily Kopp, Elizabeth

Anna Rochefort, Kate Rochefort, Samuel Aldrich, Eric Aldrich, Landyn O'Donnell, Claetyn O'Donnell, Lincoln Fadden, Kinsley Fadden and step-great-grandchildren Carly and Kaelyn Sanville. 2 great-great-grandchildren, Carter and Reid Olsen. Brother, John Willard Benzie (Grand Rapids MN), sister Janet Puffer (Groton VT), and many much-loved nieces and nephews.

Those who wish may make donations in memory of Charlotte Fadden to North Haverhill United Methodist Church, PO Box 29, North Haverhill, NH 03774.

Calling Hours will be Friday, January 24, 2025, from 5-7 PM at Ricker Funeral Home and Cremation Care of Woodsville, 1 Birch St. Woodsville, NH. Funeral Services will be on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at 10 AM at North Haverhill United Methodist Church, 2900 Dartmouth College Hwy, North Haverhill, NH. Burial in the spring will be on May 14, 2025, at 1 PM at Horse Meadow Cemetery Annex, Horse Meadow Rd. North Haverhill.

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

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Once you retire, you'll likely need to draw on a variety of financial sources — and one of the most important ones may be your 401(k). And for 2025, you can put even more money into your plan than ever.

You can invest in your 401(k) in one of two ways, depending on your employer's plan. With a traditional 401(k), you contribute pre-tax dollars, which can lower your taxable income, and your money can grow tax deferred. If you have a Roth 401(k) option, you can contribute after-tax dollars, which aren't deductible, but your eventual withdrawals will be tax-free if you've had your account at least five years and you're at least 59½.

For either a traditional or Roth 401(k), as well as similar plans such as a 457(b) (for government employees) or a 403(b) (for educators and employees of some nonprofit groups), the contribution limit has increased by \$500 for 2025, to \$23,500. If you're 50 or older, you can contribute an additional \$7,500, for a total of \$31,000. And under the SECURE 2.0 legislation, if you are between 60 and 63, you have a higher catch-up contribution — \$11,250, instead of \$7,500, for a total of \$34,750.

If you can afford to contribute the full amount to your 401(k) or similar plan, consider doing so. Of course, not everyone is

in that position. If you're a younger worker, you may well have other financial obligations, such as

paying off student loans. And even if you've been in the workforce for a while, you may be putting away money for other things — such as your children's education — as well as your own retirement. But even if you can't "max out" on your 401(k), try to contribute at least enough to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered.

Regardless of how much you contribute to your 401(k), consider these suggestions on managing the money within your plan:

Create a portfolio that fits your risk tolerance. Most 401(k) plans offer up to a dozen investment options, while some plans offer many more. You obviously want to increase your 401(k) balance as much as possible, but that doesn't necessarily mean putting all your 401(k) dollars into the most aggressive funds available. Instead, consider spreading your 401(k) contributions among a range of investments, which can help you lower your risk level while still giving you opportunities for long-term growth. Everyone's risk tolerance is different, though, so you'll want to evaluate yours when constructing your 401(k) portfolio.

Adjust your portfolio as needed. It's a good idea to review your 401(k)'s investment mix at least once a year to see if it's performing as you'd hoped. But be patient —

one "down" year doesn't necessarily mean you must make changes. However, as you approach retirement, you may want to lower the risk level of your 401(k) by moving some of your dollars into more conservative vehicles. Still, even when you're retired and have started drawing money from your 401(k), you might want to keep some growth potential in it to help you stay ahead of inflation.

By contributing what you can afford to your 401(k), and by carefully managing the investments within your plan, you can help maximize the value of this powerful retirement savings vehicle — and give yourself a key asset to help you enjoy your retirement years.

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

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OBITUARY: Jeffery M. Lamothe,

Jeffery M. Lamothe, 64, Passumpsic, passed away peacefully at his home on December 21, 2024, after fighting a long battle with cancer. He was born on August 13, 1960, to George and Virginia (Cox) Lamothe. He was raised on his parents' dairy farm in Passumpsic and graduated from St. Johnsbury Academy.

Jeffery was a hard-working man. He enjoyed riding dirt-bikes, four-wheelers, and spending time with his family, which meant most to him. He is predeceased by his parents, and a brother Roland Lamothe. He leaves behind his son, Joshua Lamothe, his daughter, Olivia Lamothe, and her husband Richard Locke, three grandchildren, two sisters, Susan and Sharron Lamothe, and a brother, Norman Lamothe. A celebration of life will be held at a later date in August of 2025.



Katherine E. Davis died peacefully on January 8, 2025, after suffering a stroke on Cape Cod. She was born April 12, 1955, to Irving Kirk Smith and Eva Muller Smith in Bergen County, New Jersey, and grew up there with her siblings during the 1960s. As a teenager, she moved with the family to the Connecticut River Valley in Haverhill, NH. Throughout her youth and her adult life, she loved the outdoors, had a sense of adventure, and took on challenges. She met the adversities of her life with hard work, hope and a unique approach that often defied expectations.

After high school she worked as an automobile mechanic, drove a distinctive red, white, and blue pickup truck, and began renovating an old house in Groton, NH. She married Jeffrey Davis, with whom she had her only child, Trevis. She studied Culinary Arts in Berlin, NH but changed career paths after an injury. Cooking nutritious and flavorful food was a lifelong pleasure. As a single mother she moved to the Concord, New Hampshire area.

In time she studied at Franklin Pierce University.

OBITUARY: Katherine E. Davis ,

Upon graduation, she began a new career in social work at the Disability Rights Center in Concord, advocating for people with disabilities. Her special interest was mental health and for several years she was the Program Director at Concord Peer Support. She made the Concord area home for at least 30 years, taking advantage of the rivers, lakes, and state parks in the vicinity; sharing her love of the outdoors with her beloved canine companions, Josh and Phenix. Katherine had an artistic, private, and independent spirit. She was sensitive to the suffering and injustices in the world but also cultivated joy as well by appreciating the gifts of color, natural beauty, creativity (gardening, poetry), and spirituality. She found hope in the Jehovah's Witness faith that there will be a world without suffering.

In 2021 she moved to Cape Cod to be closer to the beach, which she loved, and to enjoy nature with the years left to her. She took a job at Dune's Edge Campground in Provincetown.

She was preceded in death by her father, mother, her sister Anne, and her nephew David Irving Smith. Katherine is survived by her son, Tre-

vis Kirk Davis of (VT), and her siblings, Helen (NYC), Tony (NH), George (CO), Bonne (MA), Dana (CA), Charles (MA) as well as many nieces and nephews, relations by marriage, and dear friends in Concord.

A private Celebration of Life will be held in June 2025 for family and friends.

Donations in her memory will be appreciated, to either One Peer to Another PO Box 304 Laconia New Hampshire 03246 Memo line: "For Concord Location"

Or Vinfen Attn: David Brown 950 Cambridge St Cambridge, MA 02141 "HOET" in the memo line will direct funds to a Cape Cod program.

Most importantly, volunteering or in-kind contributions to local food pantries, or at homeless and disability programs are welcome everywhere. Katherine had a big heart for the neediest people who surround us all.

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



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BEEZWAX By John Martin



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

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turns choosing a tune/song. Listeners welcome.

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

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.

February 2

March 2

April 6

May 4

June 1

July 6

August 10

September 7

October 5

November 2

December 7

South Ryeg

Meals Menu

Feb. 4: Ham Loaf

Playing

Scalloped Potatoes

Roll

California Vegetables

Feb 11: Sweet and Sour Meatballs

Rice

Broccoli

Roll

Black Forest Cake

Feb 18: Sloppy Joes

Blood Playing

Oriental Cole Slaw

Carrots

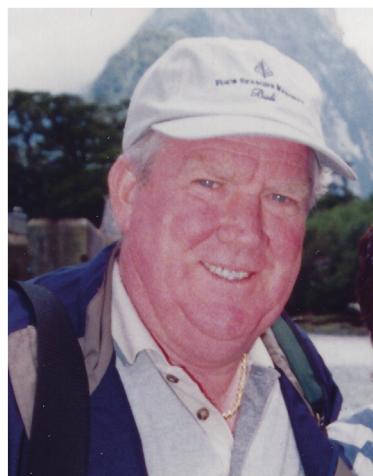
Pineapple Crisp

Feb 25 Cheesy Potato Soup

Chicken Salad Sandwich

Mixed Raw Vegetables

Creamy Orange Fluff



OBITUARY: Frank Alexander McKinnon, 80,

Orford, NH – Frank Alexander McKinnon, 80, passed away quietly on January 16, 2025, at Cottage Hospital in Woodsville, NH after a period of failing health.

He was born in Houston, TX on May 2, 1944, the son of Norma Marie Volkman. Frank's uncle, Walter Volkmann, whom Frank lovingly considered his "father figure" stepped in and helped raise Frank as his own son when Frank was a young child. Raised in Texas, Frank spent a great deal of time on the family farm as a hard-working and fun-loving young man with his brother, uncle, and cousins. Following his high school graduation in the spring of 1962, Frank enlisted in the US Navy that September with the background of an electrical repairman. Frank received training in the Navy through the nuclear power school and worked on nuclear submarines as well as the USS William R. Rush destroyer. He was honorably discharged in June 1968 earning the National Defense Service Medal.

His nuclear training in the Navy allowed him to formulate several successful business ventures throughout his life. He made many connections, personally and professionally, throughout the country and internationally as an agent for finding and placing staff for management and technicians, specifically in the nuclear industry. He was a jovial and

trustworthy man who was well-respected by all who were lucky to have known and worked for him until he formally retired in 1999.

Frank married his first wife, Marianne Waynich in 1968 and welcomed his two sons, Michael and Ryan as part of that union. Frank and his family settled in PA for a short period of time, and through the business, he eventually found his way up to New England in the early 90's.

After settling down on the seacoast of NH, Frank met and eventually married Kathleen Corbett in 1991. Frank and Kathy enjoyed many years of fun and adventure together as they shared a love of boating and the water, hosting many parties, entertaining friends, singing in the church choir, and especially traveling, the highlight of which was a celebration of his retirement with a month-long trip in 2000 including Australia, New Zealand, and Bali.

Following his full retirement, Frank and Kathy eventually settled in Orford, NH, where Frank was an active member of the American Legion. They also enjoyed a summer home on Squam Lake where he was president of the association and where they enjoyed hosting and watching their 13 grandchildren gather and play on warm summer days.

Frank is survived by his son, Ryan McKinnon (Renee), stepchild

dren Peter Corbett (Kim), Moira DeBois (Marc), Timothy Corbett (Sandy), and James Corbett (Dawn); 13 grandchildren: Christopher Marley, Maeve McKinnon, Chase McKinnon, Rylin McKinnon, Moira Corbett, Kathleen Corbett, Jennifer Maccini (Derek), Mikayla DeBois, Andrew DeBois, Tucker Corbett, Samantha Corbett, Olivia Corbett, and Isabel Corbett. He is also survived by three, very close cousins in Texas who will miss him fondly: Kathy Lindsey, Leslie Mondejar, and Gail Volkmann.

Frank is predeceased by his wife of almost 33 years, Kathleen, his son, Michael, his mother, Norma, his brother, Billy, and his loving aunt and uncle, Walter and Edwina Volkmann.

Frank's family is planning a celebration of life on June 21, 2025, in Orford, NH starting at West Cemetery. Frank was incredibly fond of and doted on all of his dogs throughout his life, most especially his close companion Molly who stood by him after losing Kathy less than a year ago in March of 2024. Memorial donations may be made to your local humane society in Frank or Molly's honor.

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



OBITUARY: Mary B. Thorne- Thomsen ,

Monroe, NH – Mary B. Thorne-Thomsen died peacefully on December 22nd, 2024, surrounded by loving family and friends at Christmastime. She was 46 years old.

Affectionately known as Mary B. or B., Mary had a clever sense of humor and loved to sing and socialize. Her favorite moments were spent conversing in her own language with whomever she could tempt with a cheerful "how are you?" Mary lit up her world with an exuberant spirit and endured her hardships with resilience. She thought sneezing was hilarious and had perfect singing pitch.

Mary lived her early years with her parents, Catherine (Kit) Harwood and John Thorne-Thomsen, Sr., her sister Laurie, and her brother John in South Woodstock and then Norwich, Vermont. In addition to family and friends, Mary was blessed with a remarkable community of caregivers and special needs pros who helped her thrive from early childhood on. Mary's family is particularly grateful to everyone who cared for her at the Camphill School in Pennsylvania, Four Winds Community in Temple, New Hampshire, and Upper Valley Services in Bradford, Vermont.

In recent years, Mary lived in Monroe with her

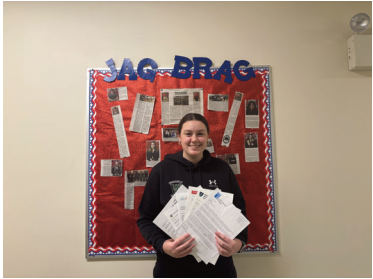
UVS homecare provider, Shelley Williams. Mary's years as part of Shelley's family were filled with love, good company, and lots of pugs. Everyone in the wider community knew Mary, or Mare Bear, as Shelley's grandkids christened her.

Mary B. was deeply loved and will be missed. She leaves behind the Williams family, her sister, Laurie Schuur Duncan, brother John Thorne-Thomsen, Jr., both her parents, and a wide circle of family and friends. Sometimes the universe gives the gift of uncomplicated, unconditional love that that brings light and purpose to life, and sweet, funny B. was that for many of us who knew her.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mary's honor to the Vermont Food Bank will be gladly welcome. Letters of condolence for Mary's family may be mailed in care of her sister Laurie at 1911 Calle Caliche, Austin TX, 78733.

An online guest book is available to leave Mary's friends and family a message of condolence by visiting www.rickerfh.com Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is assisting the family with arrangements.





Woodsville High School is proud to recognize Mila Townsend for her outstanding work in Personalized Music. Mila rewrote her bass part for the band using the traditional method of manuscript writing by hand, a rare and challenging approach in today's digital age. She demonstrated incredible attention to detail, ensuring perfect spacing, clarity, and adherence to manuscript rules.

Ms. Zampieri, WHS Music Teacher, shared, "Mila's dedication to mastering the traditional art of manuscript writing is inspiring and reflects her passion for music."

Principal Hayden Coon added, "Mila's work exemplifies the innovative and hardworking spirit of our students. Her commitment to this project is truly commendable."

Congratulations to Mila for embracing this unique challenge and excelling in her craft



Woodsville High School is proud to recognize two exceptional members of its team, Ms. Jody Engle and Ms. Denise Reardon, for their invaluable contributions to the school community.

Ms. Jody Engle, the Administrative Assistant, serves as the cornerstone of the front office. Her warmth and professionalism ensure that students, parents, and staff feel welcome and supported. From managing daily operations to assisting with school communications, Jody's dedication plays a vital role in creating an organized and efficient environment at Woodsville High School.

Ms. Denise Reardon, the Finance Specialist, is the backbone of the school's financial operations. Her meticulous attention to detail and unwavering commitment ensure that resources



are managed effectively, benefiting students and staff alike. Denise's work is integral to maintaining the programs and opportunities that help Woodsville High School thrive.

Principal Hayden Coon shared his thoughts on the duo's impact: "Ms. Engle and Ms. Reardon are the backbone of our operations. Their dedication, professionalism, and care for our school community are unmatched. We are incredibly fortunate to have them as part of our team."

Woodsville High School values the commitment and excellence of its staff and is proud to celebrate the vital roles Ms. Engle and Ms. Reardon play in supporting the school's mission.



Woodsville High School is proud to announce that Paige Royer, the JAG Student President, has been accepted to six colleges in recognition of her hard work, leadership, and dedication: Colby-Sawyer College, Keene State College, Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU), Vermont State University, Merrimack College, Plymouth State College. After careful consideration, Paige has officially chosen to attend Plymouth State College to pursue her academic and career goals.

Mrs. Jill Nichols, WHS JAG Senior Career Specialist, added: "Paige has shown extraordinary leadership and determination throughout her time at WHS. Her acceptance to these outstanding colleges reflects her hard work and dedication to her future. I have no doubt she will thrive at Plymouth State and beyond."

Principal Hayden Coon shared his congratulations: "Paige exemplifies the spirit of excellence at WHS. Her achievements and leadership have set a standard for future students, and we are so proud of her success."

The Woodsville High School community celebrates Paige's outstanding accomplishments and wishes her the very best as she begins this exciting new chapter.



Woodsville High School is proud to recognize Daniel Carbee, an aspiring animator and screenwriter, for his dedication, kindness, and perseverance.

Daniel is a shining example of what it means to be a supportive and determined student. He consistently demonstrates kindness towards his peers and teachers, offering help whenever it's needed. Despite challenges, Daniel approaches his work with creativity and an unwavering commitment to doing his best, both in the classroom and in his personal pursuits.

Principal Hayden Coon spoke highly of Daniel's contributions to the school community:

"Daniel's dedication to his craft and his unwavering kindness make him a true asset to our school. He embodies the spirit of Woodsville High School with his creativity and determination."

Woodsville High School is proud to celebrate students like Daniel who inspire others through their passion, kindness, and resilience.

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Lengthy Hearing In Concord

By: Rick Ladd

This past week, HB115, a bill relative to universal eligibility for the education freedom account program, was heard in the Education Funding Committee. This bill removes the household income criteria from the eligibility requirement for participation in the freedom account program. After five hours of public hearing, testimony was equally split between those supporting and those opposed.

New Hampshire has five methods of delivering a public education to students: 1.) district public schools, 2.) charter public schools, 3.) school district tuition programs, 4.) education tax credit scholarships, and 5.) education freedom accounts. Education freedom accounts operate under a similar principle to the town tuition program. If the local school district does not offer the services a student needs, the student can shop for an education provider that does such as another public school, charter public school, public academy, independent school, private school, or tutoring services.

The difference is that the town tuition program as approved by the local school board presumes that a student will receive the education he or she needs in his or her assigned receiving school. The EFA program acknowledges that this is not always the case. Though New Hampshire's public schools are among the best in the country, not every child thrives in his or her assigned public school. Many students, regardless of income, may find a better learning fit elsewhere. Parents know their children best, and finding the right educational environment can significantly change a child's learning experience. A child is young just once. The early years lead to future success or the lack thereof. As stated above, HB115 eliminates the income requirement for education freedom account program eligibility. As of September 2024, 5321 students were in the EFA program with an annualized cost estimated at \$27.7 million with a grant averaging \$5,204 per student. The average adequacy

education grant (FY 2026 preliminary estimates as of November 15, 2024) to public district schools is \$7,108, which includes cost of an opportunity for an adequate education, and extraordinary needs and hold harmless grants. The EFA program is approximately \$2,000 less. Claims that universal eligibility for education freedom accounts will immediately cost the state \$100 million are unfounded. No school choice program in the United States has 100% enrollment. As students potentially leave traditional district schools and join the EFA program, districts may feel pressure to reduce local expenditures to better fit the reduced population served. However, competition serves to strengthen, and children deserve to have the opportunity to thrive in the optimal environment for their learning. The education funding committee will act on HB115 in February. Respectfully Submitted, Rep Rick Ladd, Chair, Education Funding Committee

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Haverhill Government Update by Gary Scruton

In our ongoing series of interviews with two of the five members of the Haverhill Select Board (Ron Hurlburt and Joe Longacre) a number of topics were discussed.

The first topic brought up was the hiring of a new Town Administrator. It has now been about eight months since the last one left. During that time a search committee was formed that moved forward two names. At the time of this discussion there are still two candidates (although they are different) that may fit the bill. It is hoped, by Ron and Joe, that a new administrator is hired before town meeting. They noted, however, that even after an offer is made and accepted, that a deep background check must still be done before appointing someone to the position.

With town meeting not being far away the discussion moved to the annual town budget. Of course that system has been a bit different this year as there was not a full time administrator to

take the department heads' requests and refine them before going to the Advisory Budget Committee. Instead the heads themselves were the ones to present. Many meetings were held, with input from the Select Board members as well, and the final decision of the ABC was to reject the 2025 proposed budget of \$5,270,508, and suggest that the 2024 budget of \$5,257,169 be cut by 10% to \$5,070,620. This was a majority, not a unanimous, vote of the ABC. The Select Board will have its required public hearing on the 2025 budget on Monday, February 10 at 6:00 PM. At that meeting the Select Board will make its final decisions on what budget, as well as warrant articles, will be put forward to the voters of Haverhill.

In regards to warrant articles, there appear to be a number that are in the works by petitioners or by the select Board, but not yet accepted. Topics to be discussed could include the selling of a fire truck and the or-

dering of a new one, the adoption of SB2, having a forensic audit performed on the town's books, whether or not to go back to a Town Manager, the dismemberment of the Mt. Lakes District, not to mention the normal array of non-profit organizations looking for donations.

Of course town meeting will also decide who sits in a majority of the Select Board seats as there will be three openings this year. A one, year, a two year, and a three year term (due to past resignations). The filing for these seats will take place in February. Voting will be by ballot on Tuesday, March 11.

As to the date and time for this year's deliberative session, that has still yet to be decided upon by the Select Board. In past years it has happened in conjunction with the Haverhill Cooperative School District, on the Saturday following Town Meeting day. A decision on that should be forthcoming.

POP CORN AND A MOVIE By Maggie Anderson

had a discussion about favorite movies with some of my classmates last week, it got me thinking about all the drive ins that have closed and rented their grounds out for lumber yards and flea markets.

I feel bad for all the people who missed out on a night at the drive in. There are few things that offered as much fun for so little money.

When Hank and I were young we lived in Grants pass, Oregon and the local drive in offered a special dollar-a-carload family night on Wednesdays. As soon as the Wednesday night prayer meeting ended, we stuffed as many extra family members into the Omega hatchback as possible. Half the kids in the congregation were part of our family on Wednesdays.

We packed sandwiches and stopped by Blind George's News Stand for a big

bag of their famous popcorn on the way. When we got to the drive in, the kids crawled out of the Buick like a circus car crammed full of clowns. They'd head straight for the playground, get themselves good and worn out while Hank and I spread a couple of blankets on the ground in front of the car.

When the previews began the kids came streaming back to grab a sandwich, a handful of pop corn, and settle in to watch. Some of them made it through the first movie, very few made it through the second. When it was over, we stuffed them all back into the car - according to who got out where - and dropped them each off at their houses on our way back to ours.

The price for those evenings was only a dollar a carload, but the memories are priceless.

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Letter to the Editor: Disciplin

Dear Editor:

One of the great problems in our Society today is a lack of self discipline. It is manifest in casual sex, high divorce rates, the recreational use of drugs, and sliding academic standards. We don't seem to be able to discipline ourselves to maintain high standards of Conduct and Morality. Why? We have failed to properly train and discipline our children in our homes and in our schools for a couple of Generations.

This lack in Administering discipline has resulted in a dramatic shortage of self

discipline. Righteousness means right living, and right living comes from discipline, self discipline. This is something a person should learn. Unfortunately, we avoid discipline like it is a terrible plague. This is one of the problems of violence in our society today. Young men and women, and old men and old women for that matter have not been trained by discipline. Right living therefore is Lacking.

It seems so simple. Why do we miss the point?

Bernie Wethebee
Pike, NH

Bernie,

Many aspects of life today are far different from those of older generations. The lives we live today would hardly be recognizable to those of 100 years ago. That is not to say that self discipline is not still important. It is to say that it is different from the past. Whether that is good or bad is certainly up to each individual.

Gary Scruton, Editor

Letter to the Editor:

To the Editor,

I was happy to see the Journal Opinion at the January 16th Village of Wells River Trustees Meeting with details of the January 6th oil spill in their January 17th daily Newsletter.

Without them the village would still be in the dark about the fuel spill and the water situation.

As of January 19, there has been nothing widely disseminated by the Village regarding the 300-gallon fuel spill and there is nothing on the Village Website. If the Village is not going to keep the website up to date it would be better not to have one.

A few notices put up down town does not inform the village as a whole or make the trustees transpar-

ent. Not everyone gets downtown. I would encourage the trustees to send out media press releases, use the village website, Front Porch Forum and the list-serve. The village water users and the village as a whole deserve better.

Why is the village paying someone to take Trustees minutes when the village charter states that "The Clerk shall keep a record of all called Village meetings of the Village trustees". Perhaps if the trustees would stop assigning non clerk duties to the clerk she could take the minutes. Paying someone to take minutes when the clerk could do it is not good use of tax dollars

Richard M Roderick
Wells River,, VT

Richard,

Being an elected official, at any level of government, can not be an easy task. No matter the decision made, some will say that you have gone too far, while others will say you have not gone far enough. By being an elected official, that person represents all constituents, whether they voted for the representative or not. So starting off someone will not agree with your stance.

Specifically referring to the water issue in Wells River, I can only guess that the State of Vermont has rules governing what must be done in the case of an oil spill such as happened recently. There are bound to be regulations that must be met. The question becomes, how much further should the Board of Trustees go?

Regarding the Village Clerk and her current job requirements, again, there are bound to be some regulations that must be met. Above and beyond that it becomes the best judgement of those elected to make decisions using their best judgement. As an employee, the clerk can, and should, do as requested or required by the board.

A reminder that Town Meetings and village or precinct meetings are coming up quickly. It offers one of the best times to allow for the voters to let those elected know how good, or bad, a job they are doing, and whether or not they should continue in that position. So be involved. Get educated. And most of all, show up and vote.

Gary Scruton, Editor

Letter to the Editor: The Country Has Spoken

To the Editor,

The numbers tell the story. 77,303,568 (NBC News): That's the number of patriot Americans that voted for Donald Trump last November. He topped Kamala Harris in the popular vote as well, being only the second time since 1988 that any Republican has accomplished that. 7: The number of all seven swing states that Trump won. 312: Trump wins the Presidency by garnering 42 more electoral votes needed to win (270). The Republicans won the majority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Voters across the country shifted red, with Trump making gains in almost all of the major demographic groups as well as in typically Democratic districts (CBS News). More than 89 percent of counties within the United States have shifted in Trump's favor, with all 50 states moving to the right (New York Times). The Telegraph (Jan. Robert,

I am a firm believer in good old common sense. I am also a believer in looking at any issue from multiple angles. As I have written before, it is difficult to see the entire issue when you only stand in one spot, or look at it from one direction. To get a full comprehension of the issue it must be looked at from many directions. That is one of the reasons that this country has two political parties, not just one. And many would argue that having a strong third party would be a good thing for the country as a whole.

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19, 2025) calling it a Trump global political landslide.

As former President Biden leaves office his approval rating has slipped to a dismal 34% (Marquette Law School.) Yet the smug diehard liberals don't seem to understand why, in spite of President Trump's popularity. Trump derangement syndrome (TDS) seems to be alive in a small segment of the population. They can't even seem to accept the fact that the George Soros funded D.A. Alvin Bragg of New York and that corrupt Judge Juan Merchan directed by the weaponized Department of Justice, "arranged" a sentence of felon for President Trump (Letter to the Editor, Rachael Booth, Trendy Times, Jan. 14, 2025.) Constitutional scholars, Jonathan Turley (George Washington University Law School), Alan Dershowitz (former Harvard Law School Professor), and Gregg Jarrett (Fox News Legal Analyst) among

others have stated that the Merchan court proceedings are filled with errors and will most likely be dismissed on appeal.

Fortunately, we are on the cusp of the most consequential four years in our history that will turn this country around from the disastrous policies of the Biden Administration. We will be on a new course from which even the liberals will be the recipients. It's time for the Congressional Democrats to fall in line and work for the American good and put their obstructionist policies behind them. The "New Golden Age," as President Trump has termed it, will benefit us all. As the old adage goes, a rising tide floats all ships. Yes, the people have firmly spoken, and it's time to place this country on the proper path moving forward. Good old common sense is back.

Robert Briggaman
North Concord, VT

I will agree with you that President Trump won the 2024 election. But I must point out that it was by a narrow majority in both the popular vote and, most importantly, the electoral college. In regards to the Senate and House of Representatives, yes both have a majority on the Republican side, but by only a very small number.

I have hope that the next four years go in a positive direction for this country and its citizens. But ask me in 2029, or later, and I will be better able to give you a more definite answer.
Gary Scruton, Editor

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LETTERS

(and even some real words)

From The Editor

County Tax “Increases”- The Rest of the Story

To the Editor,
 Recent letters to the editor of two locally distributed weekly papers have railed against the Grafton County Commissioners and the County Delegation because of county tax “increases”. Their claims prompted me to look at the State of New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) data on municipal tax rates for my own town (Bath) and the Town of Haverhill. The results? The County tax impact on Bath residents decreased from a rate of \$1.86 per \$1000 of property’s assessed value in 2020 to a tax rate of \$1.48 per \$1000 in 2023. During the same period, the County tax rate in Haverhill decreased from \$1.83 to \$1.59 per \$1000 property valuation. (As an aside, a property’s assessed value is determined by the Town, not the County). The bottom line: if the assessed value of individual homeowner properties did not increase (and the total valuations for the two towns in 2020 and 2023 suggest that most did not), most Bath and Haverhill taxpayers paid less in County taxes in 2023 than in 2020.
 A quick note for the conspiracy folks among us- the years for which tax rates are quoted are not selected to make the data look good. 2020 is the earliest year of data on the DRA website, and the Town of Haverhill had a major reevaluation in 2023 that made their 2024 tax rate data look artificially low. I chose to use the higher 2023 tax rate value

to better compare apples to apples. In addition, in the interest of transparency, I recognize that taxpayers from some towns in Grafton County did not see a County tax rate reduction over that time frame. The County tax rate for each town is determined individually and annually by DRA and takes into account County expenditures, County revenue, and each town’s property valuation compared to the total property valuation of the county. An individual taxpayer cannot assume that if the County expenditures increase, their County taxes will go up.
 I suggest that folks stop bashing the County and pay more attention to their school taxes. In 2023 in Bath, the local school tax was about 61% of my total tax bill. County taxes, by comparison, made up only 6.4% of my total bill. In November 2023, the NH Supreme Court ruled for the second time that the state has failed to meet its constitutional obligation to adequately fund our schools. The State is currently appealing the decision. In the meantime, who makes up the shortfall between the amount that each school receives from the State and the amount that the NH Supreme Court says is appropriate? Property owners. More information is available on the website of the NH School Funding Fairness Project.
 Linda Lauer
 Bath NH

Linda,
 Thank you for adding more facts to the information that is out there regarding our property tax bills. It can certainly be confusing for some to understand all the parts and pieces that must go together to make up the final bill. As regular readers will already know, taxpayers in New Hampshire do not have a say on county budgets. However we do have the final say on local school and town budgets. So please take the time to be informed and be sure to vote. It is your right.
 Gary Scruton, Editor

Letter to the Editor: “Heard at the County...”

To the Editor,
 A few items taxpayers/voters of Grafton County should know about which transpired at the Grafton County Commissioners’ Meeting, Tuesday, January 14, 2025 include:
 County Attorney, Marcie Hornak, requested appointment of a part-time/half-time prosecutor from the Town of Lebanon to work at the Grafton County Complex ASAP through ARPA funds. Grafton County would be responsible for this person’s “benefits” (health, retirement, etc?) because this person would be considered an “employee” of the County. Even though “cases are down,” according Ms. Hornak, she said she needs an additional prosecutor because 1 prosecutor is “overworked” due to the amount of litigation. She further requested “a promise from the Commissioners” because she (Ms. Hornak) made a “commitment to Lebanon.” Commissioners indicated they could not give a promise ...at this point, and indicated that they didn’t feel comfortable doing so. They cannot support this request at this point, and further suggested that the County Attorney use any left-over monies in

her present budget to fill this request. The Commissioners indicated that they would look at this in the next year’s budget. County Attorney Hornak pointed out that this request “...would be good for morale!” Commissioner McLeod suggested the County Attorney “...do it now with what you have in your budget now.” Commissioner Piper stated that “... morale is not suffering from the County point of view, while supporting Commissioner McLeod’s suggestion “...to plant a seed.” Kidding, County Attorney Hornak laughingly stated she would be seeking a 20% increase in the County Attorney’s Budget!
 Register of Deeds, Kelly Monahan, presented her case before the Commissioners, next. She stated that “...high-end equipment’ is needed “ in the Deeds Office. She’s looking for “...promotions for her staff.”
 Regionalized ambulance service will be a topic in the weeks ahead. Former Senator Bob Giuda and “a Don Bliss”? want to know what the County is doing for Regionalized Ambulance Services. Bills have been introduced by Representatives Jerry Stringham (D –

District 3 [Easton, Lincoln, Woodstock]) and Suzanne Prentiss (D – District 5) for reimbursement.
 County Administrator, Julie Libby, asked for authority to change items between departments, ie “line item transfers.” Line items = overextended. Commissioner Katie Hedburgh made the motion to authorize while Commissioner McLeod, seconded. All 3 Commissioners approved said motion.
 Commissioners went into non-public session, which I assume ended the meeting.
 NB. Again, as stated many times before by this observer, many conversations at these weekly Commissioners’ Meetings are garbled, mumbled, some with individuals speaking very casually and quickly, and/or some very softly so they cannot be clearly understood. I did my best to acquire this information for dissemination to the voters/taxpayers of Grafton County in spite of the fact that I am not permitted to ask department heads nor Commissioners any questions.
 More to come....
 Nick De Mayo,
 Sugar Hill, NH

Nick,
 I thank you again for the information from the Grafton County Commissioners meeting. If voters have any questions they can always contact either their County Commissioner, or their local State Representative for more information.
 Gary Scruton, Editor

Letter to the Editor: Disciplin

Dear Woodsville and Haverhill Residents,
 My name is Anthony Daniels, and it has been my pleasure to serve on our local school board for the past three years. At our most recent school board meeting, members were presented with the results of the latest round of STAR testing for Woodsville Elementary School, which measures student growth and proficiency in reading and mathematics. Based on the results, the state of education at our local elementary school is strong.
 In Kindergarten, 93% of our students scored at or above the benchmark for mathematics, 75% for early literacy, and 93% for

reading. In first grade, 68% of our students met or exceeded the benchmark for math, and 69% did so for reading. The second grade saw 76% of students achieving benchmark scores in math and 65% in reading, and in third grade, 63% scored at or above the benchmark in reading, with 78% meeting the standard in math.
 These accomplishments reflect the incredible efforts of our building administrators, educators, support staff, and parents, as well as the unwavering involvement of the broader community. It takes a village to nurture and guide our students toward success, and Haverhill has shown itself to be a

shining example of what can be achieved when we work together for the benefit of our children.
 I encourage everyone in the community to take pride in these results and recognize the bright future they promise for our students. These achievements are not merely numbers—they are a testament to the potential, dedication, and passion that define our town and its schools. Thank you to all who contribute to this ongoing success. Your hard work and commitment are deeply appreciated.
 Sincerely,
 Anthony Daniels
 Haverhill Cooperative School Board Member

Anthony,
 Thank you for passing along these numbers. We are always happy to pass along information to the voters and taxpayers of our community. We all realize that annual school meeting will be upon us soon. It will be at that time that the voters will have the biggest say on how our schools and our students will move forward.
 Education, just like most things in life, is not free. So please educate yourself about both school and town affairs and participate in your local government. After all it is your tax dollars being spent.
 Gary Scruton, Editor

LISTEN DAILY ON WYKR!



5:40am & 12:20pm



TRENDY KITCHEN

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



Apple Cookies

Hello hello my fellow chefs! How are you all doing today? I'm doing okay but haven't been doing very much. It's been so so cold and frigid that all I want to do is hibernate. Just letting the dogs out is a freezing problem. Twice so far I've fallen on the ice outside. Both times when I fell my heel caught a patch of ice and I went down on my back and bumped my head. I got banged up and was terrified. No one was around but I managed to get up. Tylenol and rest helped but I'm already hoping spring comes early. I ordered some traction gripping things that fit over your boots. I used to have a pair but I have no idea what happened to them. Please be very careful when you head outside.

Today's recipe is so easy peasy, "Delicioso" and you probably have all the ingredients in your pantry. Let's get started with today's recipe and how to make it.

Ingredients
1 1/3 Cups packed brown sugar (If you have some hard pieces in your brown sugar try breaking them up with your fingers. If you can't break up throw out because

they don't melt)
1/2 cup softened butter (1 stick) microwave for 15-20 seconds and go from there it's okay if it melts.

1 large egg
2 cups of all purpose flour
1 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp ground cloves
1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
1 cup apple peeled, cored and mince finely (I used my mini food processor)
1 cup raisins
1/4 cup milk
1/2 cup chopped walnuts (optional)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease or use Pam spray on your cookie sheets.

Gather all your ingredients, measuring cups and spoons. Beat brown sugar and soft/melted butter in large bowl until light and fluffy with electric mixer. Beat in the egg until combined. In separate medium bowl combine flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg whisk together until thoroughly mixed. Beat in 1/2 of flour mixture into brown sugar then stir in apples, raisins, chopped

walnuts if you're using them and the milk mix then add remaining flour mixture and beat until well combined. Using a cookie scoop drop balls onto prepared sheet placing 2" apart. Bake in preheated oven for 10-12 minutes. Edges will get golden. Check bottom of cookie at 10 minutes for doneness. Depending on your oven cook an additional 2 minutes if needed.

Let sit for just a minute then transfer to wire racks to cool. That's it, you are done! This recipe makes 3 dozen. You and your family will love these, and I bet you'll make them again. Share some with your friends or invite them over for cookies and coffee. It's important to socialize with friends and they will hop at the invite. Yummy!

Well folks that's it for today's recipe. Please give it a try your family will call you a star and you won't be disappointed. Enjoy! Be safe, healthy and warm my friends and please be careful on the snow and ice whether you are walking or driving. Brrrr... Until next time

I am signing off.
Sincerely,
Cin Pin

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