

A FREE PUBLICATION



Next Issue: Tuesday, March 11  
Deadline: Thursday, March 06

# TRENDY TIMES



Po Box 43, South Ryegate, VT 05069  
802-461-9886

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

February 25, 2025 VOLUME 16, NUMBER 12

## White Mountain Cinema Camp Returns – Applications Open for Summer 2025!

Bethlehem, NH – February 13, 2025 – The Colonial Theatre is thrilled to announce the return of the White Mountain Cinema Camp (WMCC) for its fifth year, offering an extraordinary opportunity for aspiring young filmmakers. Open to students ages 14-18, WMCC is a two-week intensive filmmaking program designed to guide participants through the process of creating an original short film—from concept to final cut.

Guided by experienced industry professionals, students will explore all facets of filmmaking, including

scriptwriting, acting, directing, cinematography, and post-production. The program culminates in a world premiere screening at The Colonial Theatre, where students will proudly showcase their work to an audience of family, friends, and community members. This immersive experience not only builds technical filmmaking skills but also fosters creativity, teamwork,



communication, and confidence. Last year's program was a tremendous success, with a full cohort of students and a waitlist of eager applicants. The camp concluded with a packed-house premiere of All Figured Out, an original short film created entirely during the program. Over 40 hours of hands-on instruction provided students with invaluable experience and a newfound passion for storytelling through film.

28–31, 10AM-3PM and August 4–7, 10AM-4PM. The culmination of the program will be a premiere screening on Sunday, August 10, where students will have the opportunity to showcase their completed film at The Colonial Theatre in Bethlehem, NH. The cost of the program is \$75, with scholarships available to ensure that no student is turned away due to financial need.

Give your teen a summer to remember—apply today at [www.Bethlehem-Colonial.org](http://www.Bethlehem-Colonial.org).

Spots for this year's program are limited, and with last year's strong demand, early application is encouraged!

This summer, White Mountain Cinema Camp will take place over two weeks, running from July

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- 11th: Judy's Fancy Chicken  
 Mashed Potato  
 Homemade Roll  
 Peas and Carrots  
 Angel Food Cake with Fruit
- 18th: Corned Beef Cabbage  
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 Bars
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# Haverhill Select Board Update by Gary Scruton

Once again I had the opportunity to sit down with Select Board members Ron Hurlburt and Joe Longacre. Following are some of their thoughts as the town of Haverhill gets ready for Town Meeting 2025.

When it comes to Town Meeting most think first about the budget. This year's Haverhill budget is actually down about \$27,000 from the 2024 budget. This amount was decided upon after a public hearing in front of the Select Board, along with suggestions from the Advisory Budget Committee.

Though the biggest monetary item on the agenda is the budget, there are over two million dollars worth of other decisions to be made at town meeting. Along with the normal variety of non-

profit groups looking for financial assistance (some of which got full board backing, while some did not) there are also some other major decisions to be made.

Three articles pertain to sending money back to Woodsville to pay for highway and fire departments. There are three articles as one is for some paving projects in Woodsville, one is for the regular highway maintenance, and the third is for the fire department. The select board was unanimous in backing all three articles.

Though no expenditures are immediately involved, (a bond would be taken out to pay the balance of \$445,215, but the first payment would not happen until 2026 or later) there are two articles regarding the Haverhill Fire

Department. One is to sell a pumper truck for about \$450,000. The second is to use that money as a down payment on a new pumper to be delivered in about 3 years, at a cost of slightly over one million dollars. Another \$200,000 would be taken out of the fire department capital reserve fund.

Another monetary issue will be an article in reference to the completion of a paving project on Brushwood Road. That number comes in at about \$322,000.

\$100,000 is asked to be raised by a petitioned article. This money to be spent on a forensic audit of the town's books from 2019-2024. According to the select board a forensic audit could cost that amount for a period of just one year or less.

Two more very important articles will be voted on by ballot on Tuesday, March 11. Both articles are by petition and there is not a 100% backing of either by the full board. The first must pass by a 3/5, or 60% vote. This is the adoption of the SB2 form of voting. This article was defeated in 2024. There will be a public hearing about this article on Friday, February 28 at 6 pm at the Clifford building in Woodsville.

The other article asks if the voters would like to bring back the Town Manager form of government. Again, the current select board is not unanimous on their feelings toward this article.

Balloting will take place on Tuesday, March 11 from 8 am to 6 pm at the Morrill building in North

Haverhill. The deliberative portion of town meeting will begin after the annual Haverhill Cooperative School District meeting on Saturday, March 15. The school meeting will begin at 9 am at the Haverhill Cooperative Middle School

Not related to Town Meeting but possibly one of the biggest events of the year is the possible introduction of a new Town Administrator. At the present time a full background report is being conducted. This could only be done once the two sides had agreed upon a contract. It is reported that the contract is very favorable to the town, though details can not be divulged until the actual hiring has occurred. It is hoped this will happen before town meeting.

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Questions - Call Me 505.288.0545

**Thank you for your Support!**

**Remember to VOTE on Tuesday, March 11th**

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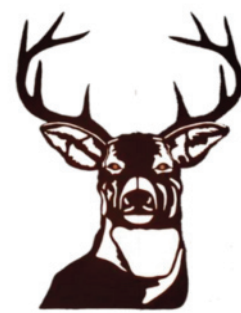
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# OBITUARY: Charles Edward Metz, Jr,

On February 18th, 2025, Charles Edward Metz, Jr departed his home under the flag of the United States of America. He was an architect by profession, an athlete, an artist, a writer, and a conservationist. Though none of these roles compared with his passion for his family and his roles as brother, father, husband, grandfather, and friend. He loved his English Setters, his cow 'friends', the pursuit of Scolopax Minor, and the Atlantic Salmon.

After a tour with the U.S. Marine Corps, Charles studied architecture under a full scholarship to the Cooper Union School of Architecture. He lives on through the many architectural projects he worked on throughout the Upper Valley, from federal buildings to churches, and everything in between. He later came under the spell of the elusive Salmon Salar. As a result of his fascination and affinity he went back to school to Antioch New England University. His thesis, an in-depth study of all facets of Atlantic Salmon Ecology earned a Master of Science Degree in Natural Resource Man-

agement and Administration. The Riviere Sainte Anne which spills out of the Gaspé's Chic Choc Mountains served as a laboratory for his study and findings. He has cast a fly on almost every river of the Gaspé Peninsula. He has explored the rivers on Quebec's north shore, the Miramichi in New Brunswick, and the beautiful Margaree River in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Memories he would fondly recall in his later years.

Charlie's passion for life and dedication to his family will always be remembered. Shooting Stars Farm is forever his home. If you asked him, he would say he's 'living a dream'.

A service will be held at the West Newbury Church on Saturday, March 15th at 11 am. Memorial contributions may be made to Bayada Home Health & Hospice of Vermont (PO Box 1590, Norwich, VT, 05055).

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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- Bradford Fire Department
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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

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## 2nd Wednesday monthly

NEKCA Mobile Food Shelf,

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## 3rd Friday Monthly

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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

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Monday – Friday from 11:00-12:30

Clifford Building, North Haverhill

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turns choosing a tune/song. Listeners welcome.

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## 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.

March 2

April 6

May 4

June 1

July 6

August 10

September 7

October 5

November 2

December 7

St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

Off-Grid Roundtable

March 8

1:30 pm

St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

Davidâ€™s Stories with NEK Author David Mar

March 12

6 pm

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March 7

5 pm

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**OBITUARY:**  
**Judith**  
**“Judy”**  
**Louise**  
**Sellinger,**

Judith L. Sellinger Haverhill, NH – Judith “Judy” Louise Sellinger, passed away on Friday, February 14, 2025. She went to be with her Valentine, “Bill.” Judith was born in Staten Island, NY on February 20, 1940, the daughter of Edythe & Harold Giddes. She graduated from business school in Staten Island and worked for RCA Communications in New York City. She married the love of her life on May 22, 1960, and lived and raised her three children in Point Pleasant, New Jersey. Judith enjoyed her sewing group with her friends in New Jersey and being involved with her husband, Bill in his deep sea fishing business and running an ice business. In 1979, she moved to Haverhill, NH and continued her life working at the Grafton County Deeds office as the Deputy Registrar for 30 years. Judith loved to golf with her hus-

band and travel with him to his work, meetings around the United States. Survivors include her two beloved pugs, Oscar and Edye; Kristine Mancuso (Michael) and their children William (his wife Thalia and children Nathalie & Gavin); Dawn Silver (Dana) and their children Mark, Brooke, Zachary & Tyler; William Sellinger (Diana) and their son William O. Sellinger; a sister Joan Yurman (Steve) and 2 nieces Beth and Samantha. A private graveside service will be held at the convenience of the family at a later date. The family would like to thank North Country Healthcare (Hospice) for compassion and assistance. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the local humane society or pug rescue or the NCH Hospice in Littleton, NH. For more information, please visit [www.rickerfh.com](http://www.rickerfh.com).

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**Sweater**  
**1953**  
**By Maggie**  
**Anderson**

My brother David has been on my mind constantly lately. One of his two sons recently died. And then his house burned to the ground in California's tragic fires.

I found myself looking back to when he was 2 years old and hit by a truck trying to keep our dachshund, Bucca, from being run over in the street.

David was struck by a ladder that had not been properly stowed after the driver's previous delivery and it had cracked his skull open when it passed.

This poem was written about that afternoon.

**SWEATER 1953**

Satin lapels  
beaded embroidery  
clutched and closely  
guarded.  
A Sunday sweater really.  
My mother's pride.  
Silver sequins matching  
the faux gray  
she sprayed at her  
temples  
until the real thing took  
root.  
The cardigan she  
reached for  
when she and Dad  
met Uncle Cal and Auntie  
Mona for dinner  
somewhere far from  
responsibility.  
Instantly utilitarian  
the day my baby  
brother  
lost his game of  
chicken  
with a beer truck on  
the boulevard.  
On her knees next to  
David the two barely  
breathing Mom's  
favorite sweater  
became swaddling  
for my baby brother's  
brain.



**OBITUARY:**  
**Jane Rita**  
**(Charland)**  
**Grimes,**

South Ryegate, VT – Jane Rita (Charland) Grimes, 90, went to live with Jesus and his mother Mary in Heaven on Thursday, February 13, 2025. She was born on June 11, 1934, at the older Littleton Hospital to Frank and Ethel (McLeod) Charland.

She graduated from Bethlehem High School as a Valedictorian after attending St. Rose of Lima Catholic School for eight years.

Jane's passion was to become a nurse. She attended Sacred Heart School of Nursing with the Sisters of Mercy and St. Mary's College in Hooksett, NH.

After passing her state boards in 1955, she immediately took the position of scrub nurse in the OR and soon became supervisor of the OR which she found was her niche in Littleton Hospital. After many years she took the same position at Cottage Hospital in Woodsville, NH. Sometime later she changed employer again, this time as a charge nurse at the Grafton County Nursing Home. Much later she was asked if she would work at Atkinson Retirement Home in Newbury, VT until a permanent placement was made. Eleven years later, she finally retired and enjoyed a large retirement party!

She is survived by three wonderful children: Cathy Grimes of South Ryegate, the oldest, Michael Grimes and his wife Mechille of Oklahoma City, OK, and Mark Grimes and his wife Dawn of Isle La Motte, VT; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; three sisters, June Elliott of Littleton, Janet MacKay and husband Tom of North Carolina, and Sally Anderson and husband John of Littleton; her in-laws Lois Charland from Bethlehem, and Larry Elliott of Littleton.

Jane was predeceased by her brother Pean Charland, and her sisters Linda Dalglish and Rena Elliott. She was always an animal lover and had many during her life including lambs, rabbits, cats and especially dogs of all sizes.

Calling hours will be Monday, February 24, 2025, from 4-6 PM at Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville, NH

In remembrance of her life please donate to Newbury Veterinarian Hospital in Newbury, VT.

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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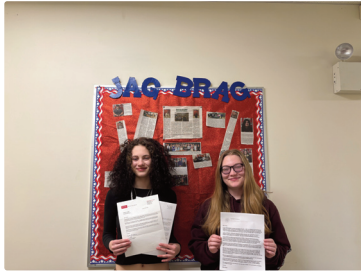
Eryleigh Hambrick, a standout student at Woodsville High School, is being recognized for her exceptional kindness, academic progress, and dedication to the Health Science Technology program.

Recently, Eryleigh demonstrated her compassion and leadership by reaching out to a new student during class partnering activities, ensuring they felt welcomed and included. Her willingness to go above and beyond to help others shows the true spirit of community at WHS.

In addition to her kindness, Eryleigh has made remarkable strides in her own academic journey. Her hard work and dedication have been evident, and she continues to excel in her studies. As a student in the Health Science Technology program, Eryleigh is preparing for a bright future in the healthcare field.

Mr. Hayden Coon, Principal of Woodsville High School, shared his thoughts on Eryleigh's impact: "Eryleigh's kindness and academic growth are an inspiration to her peers. She embodies the values we encourage at WHS—hard work, compassion, and always lifting others up."

Eryleigh's commitment to both her academics and her peers makes her a role model at WHS, and we are excited to watch her continue to grow and succeed.



\* Note-- Left is Natalie and right is Taylor  
Woodsville High School is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of JAG students Taylor Wright and Natalie Langille, who have been accepted into multiple colleges and universities as they prepare to pursue their future careers.

Taylor Wright has been accepted to Findlay University in Ohio, where she will enroll in the Equine Studies program. Taylor's passion for working with horses has driven her dedication to this field, and her acceptance into one of the nation's top equine programs is a testament to her hard work and commitment.

Natalie Langille has been accepted to Keene State University, Plymouth State University, and Franklin Pierce University. She plans to study Psychology, with the ultimate goal of becoming a Psychiatrist. Natalie's focus on mental health and her drive to make a difference in the lives of others have

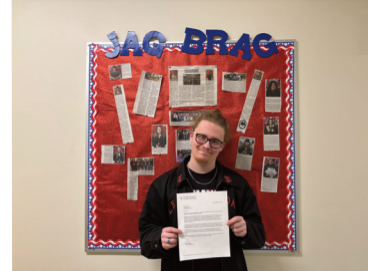


earned her multiple college opportunities.

Mrs. Nichols, Senior Career Specialist, shares: "Taylor and Natalie have worked incredibly hard to achieve their goals, and I couldn't be prouder. Their dedication, resilience, and ambition will take them far in their future careers."

The JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) program at Woodsville High School plays a vital role in preparing students for success in college and career pathways. Through leadership development, career readiness training, and individualized support, JAG empowers students to set and achieve their goals.

Woodsville High School congratulates Taylor and Natalie on their achievements and looks forward to seeing their continued success as they take the next step in their academic and professional journeys.



Cody White, a dedicated student in the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program at Woodsville High School, has officially been accepted to the Maine College of Art and Design (MECA). Cody's passion for music and the arts has led him to choose MECA, despite also receiving acceptance to Plymouth State University and Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU).

Mrs. Jill Nichols, Senior Career Specialist at Woodsville High School, expressed her pride in Cody's accomplishments: "Cody's dedication to his craft and his passion for music have been evident throughout his time in the JAG program. We are thrilled for his future at MECA and can't wait to see all that he will accomplish!"

Cody's decision to pursue his passion for music at MECA marks a significant step in his academic and creative journey. His hard work, commitment to excellence, and involvement in the JAG program have shaped him into the motivated and driven individual he is today.



The Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program at Woodsville High School is excited to recognize Gyana Taylor as this week's JAG Student of the Week!

Since joining JAG as a freshman, Gyana has been a standout student, consistently demonstrating dedication, perseverance, and a strong work ethic. She is known for her commitment to turning in assignments on time and always striving for excellence. Beyond her academic achievements, Gyana brings positivity and humor to the classroom, creating a welcoming and supportive environment for her peers.

Mrs. Nichols, Senior Youth Career Specialist, shared: "Gyana's determination and positive attitude make a huge impact in JAG. She approaches every challenge with resilience and always lifts up those around her!"

Woodsville High School and the JAG program are proud to celebrate Gyana's hard work, leadership, and commitment to success. Her efforts set an inspiring example for her classmates, and we look forward to seeing all she will accomplish in the future.

*Engineering a better future by inspiring our students to become independent, life-long learners.*





Woodsville High School is proud to announce Sam Langille as the JAG Student of the Week! Sam has been an active member of the JAG program since the start of the school year, consistently bringing a warm and positive attitude to the classroom. His dedication, kindness, and engagement make him a valued part of the JAG community.

Sam's friendly and welcoming nature is evident in his daily interactions, as he never fails to greet Mrs. Nichols, Senior Career Specialist, and his classmates with a warm hello, setting a positive tone for the class. While he is often a quiet presence, his thoughtfulness and contributions in the JAG classroom are impactful. Over the course of the year, Sam has demonstrated remarkable personal and academic growth, showing dedication to his future success.

Mrs. Nichols, Senior Career Specialist,

shares, "Sam has truly stepped up this year. He's thoughtful, engaged, and always brings a positive energy to the classroom. Watching his confidence grow has been amazing!"

Sam's recognition highlights the importance of dedication, personal growth, and positive engagement within the JAG program. Woodsville High School congratulates Sam on this well-deserved honor and looks forward to seeing his continued success!

About JAG at Woodsville High School

The JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) program at Woodsville High School focuses on career readiness, leadership development, and personal growth. Through classroom instruction, real-world experiences, and community engagement, JAG empowers students to build valuable skills and achieve their goals.



Today, on National Family & Consumer Sciences Educator Day, Woodsville High School proudly honors Mrs. Mina Flateau, a dedicated Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) educator who has been inspiring students through her creative and sustainable teaching methods.

Mrs. Flateau, who teaches Foods I, Garment and Textile Design II, Garment and Textile ELO, and Family and Consumer Science Exploration, is passionate about guiding students to develop practical skills while nurturing their creativity. She says, "I love making beautiful things alongside my students and inspiring them to be creative. My favorite moments in teaching are when kids surprise themselves by what they are capable of."

In addition to her hands-on approach in the classroom, Mrs. Flateau is committed to sustainability through her "No Retail 2025" initiative, where she has pledged to only purchase secondhand or upcycled clothing and home goods for the year, encouraging her students to embrace sustainable living.

Principal Hayden Coon expresses his admiration for Mrs. Flateau, stating, "Mrs. Flateau's dedication to her students and passion for the environment is contagious. She inspires everyone around her to think creatively and make a difference."

Woodsville High School is proud to have Mrs. Flateau as part of its faculty and looks forward to the continued positive impact she will make on her students, teaching them valuable skills that will last a lifetime.



Gracelyn R. Blaise, 83, of Orange, VT, passed away peacefully on February 10, 2025, at Springfield Hospital in Springfield, VT, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on November 27, 1941, in Groton, VT, the daughter of Rupert H. and Doris (Keenan) Ricker.

A bright and accomplished student, Gracelyn graduated as valedictorian from Groton High School. Following graduation, she pursued her passion for beauty and attended beauty school. On November 21, 1970, she married Stanley Blaise Sr. at the Topsham Presbyterian Church, a union that brought her much joy.

Gracelyn dedicated many years to serving her community through her work in customer service at various pharmacies in Barre, VT. She retired from Rite Aide, where her friendly demeanor and helpful nature were appreciated by all.

Gracelyn was predeceased by her father, Rupert, on September 5, 1996; her mother, Doris, on February 7, 1991; her husband, Stanley, on February 2, 1990; and her siblings: Harvey Ricker (April 13, 2019), Lawrence Ricker (September 17, 2016), Roderic Ricker (February

## OBITUARY: Gracelyn R. Blaise,

22, 2023), Doris Frigon (November 28, 2014), and Priscilla Ricker (November 11, 1997).

She is survived by her sister, Lillian Olsen of East Corinth, VT. Gracelyn will be remembered for her intelligence, her dedication to her work, and her love for her family. She is also survived by her stepson Stauch and wife Delores of Zephyrhills FL, two stepdaughters Bonnie Bell and Diana Bisson of Sydney NB, and several nieces and nephews, as well as grandchildren.

Calling hours will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, from 5-7 PM at Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville, 1 Birch St., Woodsville, NH. A graveside service will take place on Friday, May 23, 2025, at 11:00 AM at the Groton Village Cemetery, in the new section.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, PO Box 7023, Merrifield, VA 22116

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

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### Apex Lawncare

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**Home Health Aide** sought to provide daily compassionate support, care and assistance to a local female farmer in her late 60's living with multiple sclerosis with limited ability. Assistance is needed at the start of each day for 2 to 3 hrs. Responsibilities include daily grooming, meal prep, light housekeeping, appointments, ability to monitor vital signs a plus. Requirements are prior experience in caregiving, valid driver's license and ability to lift 50 lbs, How to Apply: Email resume or letter of interest to teamkimmeg@gmail.com, along with two references. Applications will be reviewed and interviews will be scheduled on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

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**OBITUARY:**  
**Clarke  
Ranslow  
Tabor Jr.  
"Ranny" ,**

Clarke Ranslow Tabor Jr. "Ranny" was born on March 17, 1937, to Clarke and Ruth (Lacaille) Tabor. He passed on February 10, 2025, at his home in Waits River, VT. He married Annette Amsden on September 2, 1956, in Panama where he was stationed while serving in the US Army. He attended college at UVM. He farmed, sold farming equipment, worked construction, and owned and operated his own log truck. Ranny enjoyed fishing and driving the back roads. He could always find his way home as he knew most roads. He was an amazing storyteller. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Annette, his children Jerry Tabor and part-

ner Kathy, Jo Lacaille, Janet and Ed Miller, Julie and Mike Leveille, and Jon and Robin Tabor. He had 15 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. His sisters Sharon Gage and Lynell Davis. And his beloved pets Maggie and Boogers. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Dwight. Memorial donations in his honor can be made to Tri-Village Fire Department at P.O. Box 67 West Topsham, VT 05086. To offer the family an online condolence, please visit [www.rickererfh.com](http://www.rickererfh.com) Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is assisting the family with arrangements.

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## HAVERHILL SELECT BOIARD CANDIDATES FOR 3 YEAR TERM

### R. Michael Small

#### What is your view on SB2?

SB2 was defeated by the voters at the 2024 meeting, which fewer than 300 voters, out of approximately 2500 registered voters, took the time to attend. Will voter participation improve with a SB2 format?

#### What are your thoughts about funding for the Woodsville Highway and Fire Departments?

It makes no financial sense for a town to have district departments, with similar remits, of any type. Turf wars, equipment redundancy, superfluousness and duplicity of effort inevitably result in wasted money.

#### Where do you stand on the issue of Health Insurance for Haverhill employees?

In a perfect world health insurance would be "free". Even in the business world employees are usually expected to contribute some of the cost towards "insurance" for themselves and their families.

#### What are your thoughts about Haverhill town administration?

I questioned the wisdom of replacing the position town manager with a town administrator. If an office holder is in need of being removed, remove the office holder, not the office. The position was removed by a vote of 361 to 323; fewer than 700 voters out of approximately 2500 registered voters. Haverhill is now considering returning to a TM form administration.

#### What ideas do you have for Haverhill's future?

Control spending by eliminating superfluousness, redundancy and duplication of effort between districts. Closely exam the school budget for underfunded, or



### Vicky Wyman

#### What is your view on SB2?

I understand the concerns that some taxpayers have regarding town meeting attendance due to childcare or work schedules. However, town meetings are a critical part of our local government, allowing residents to engage in real-time discussion and decision-making. With advance planning, most people can make arrangements to attend.

SB2 may offer convenience, but it does not ensure that voters are fully informed. Traditional town meetings allow residents to hear the facts, ask questions, and engage in discussion before voting, whereas SB2 separates the deliberative process from the final decision. Without that dialogue, votes may be influenced more by social media than by direct information and debate. I believe maintaining traditional town meetings best serves our community's interests.

#### What are your thoughts about funding for the Woodsville Highway and Fire Departments?

Woodsville is an integral part of Haverhill, and its residents contribute to the town's highway and fire services just like everyone else. However, in recent years, the town has denied certain services and support to Woodsville without clear justification. This is concerning because all Haverhill residents rely on well-maintained roads and responsive emergency services. Our fire departments work together to protect the entire town, and our roadways serve all residents. Fair and equitable funding is essential to ensuring that every part of Haverhill receives the services it rightfully supports.

#### Where do you stand on the issue of Health Insurance for



crucial part of attracting and retaining a skilled workforce, but they must also be sustainable for taxpayers. Covering 100% of health insurance for employees and their families is generous, but a thorough review is necessary to ensure our total compensation package—including wages, retirement, and other benefits—remains competitive while being fiscally responsible.

#### What are your thoughts about Haverhill town administration?

The current administration, Select Board, and acting Town Administrator have made great strides in fostering transparency and improving communication between the town and its districts. This collaboration has strengthened our community, and it's vital that we continue this positive momentum. Hiring a strong, capable Town Administrator who can work effectively with both employees and the Select Board will be key to maintaining progress.

#### What ideas do you have for Haverhill's future?

We need to move forward with a strong commitment to fiscal responsibility. One of the biggest financial challenges we face is the increasing burden of school funding on local taxpayers. The State's support for education continues to decline, despite its constitutional obligation to provide adequate funding. As a result, more of the cost falls on property owners, making it harder for families and businesses to thrive.

To keep Haverhill financially stable, we must carefully manage our town budget while advocating for fairer school funding policies at the state level. Thoughtful planning and community engagement will be key to ensuring we maintain essential services without overburdening taxpayers.

### Theresa Paige

#### What is your view on SB2?

I would like more than anything to see more voters at the pole, SB2 can accomplish this. My concern would be, people not educating themselves, with the deliberative session being separate.. Either way the town goes on this, I encourage people to productively educate themselves and not facebook educate themselves. We have an entire selectboard willing to talk to any of the residents to help educate and answer questions.

#### What are your thoughts about funding for the Woodsville Highway and Fire Departments?

This past year I attended every one of the meetings for the Woodsville highway budget and also sat in during the budget season. These roads are part of The town of Haverhill infrastructure as a whole and the budget the Woodsville Highway department proposes this year is a modest budget that I fully support, I hope the town decides to fund them this year. I would like to see if we can collaborate in the future for road projects. We need to maintain roads both between Woodsville and Haverhill and I have hopes that we can build a good line of communication to keep a steady pace that the taxpayers can handle. I also support the budget for the Woodsville Fire dept.

#### Where do you stand on the issue of Health Insurance for Haverhill employees?

I recently spent some time with our Human resources department. We created a spreadsheet that

included all benefits - Health insurance, retirement, holidays and vacations as well as hours worked. This was to get a knowledge base to better serve the taxpayers when hiring new employees. What I wanted to create was a dollar equivalent that the town pays for benefits as a whole so we can feel comfortable offering an hourly wage to new hires. Given what we came up with and the rising health insurance costs along with yearly raises. What would be fair for the employees and the taxpayers is to start a cost share with a small percentage plan and increase it with a 5 year forecast. In reviewing the Woodsville budget, Woodsville is actually much more modest with then Haverhill.

#### What are your thoughts about Haverhill town administration?

I am very hopeful the town does not go back to town manager form of government. It will take us years to recuperate from the decisions our last town administration did. I do find myself saying that it doesn't matter what your resume or education says. a good ethical backing and the mindset of doing what's best for the town with no bias opinion is much better.

#### What ideas do you have for Haverhill's future?

My ideas for Haverhill in the near future is to keep improving on what our last Administration left us and continue to restructure some things - Thats quite a list. As far as the long term, I don't have a list of restaurants I'd like to see in town but I would very much like to see some sort of industry make its way to us.



## NOTICE

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## HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD CANDIDATES FOR 1 YEAR TERM

### Ron Hurburt

#### What is your view on SB2?

Mixed. SB2 can be very beneficial, to vote as we normally do in elections. It can make it much easier for folks with busy schedules, work, children, etc. to just cast a ballot. The problem is they need to research the topics and know what the item is about they are voting for.



Town Meeting gives a community atmosphere to be able to discuss/debate in an open forum the topics at hand. It requires residents to dedicate an entire day to be at a meeting to have a voice/vote for Town matters. Both views are very important with pros and cons to each. Either one I would welcome and support, swaying towards SB2.

#### What are your thoughts about funding for the Woodsville Highway and Fire Departments?

I would like to see the Highway and Fire Departments merge, but that does not appear to be in the near future, which I can support. The main item is to work together, not against. As far as funding in the mean time, they should have funds available to operate the necessities of both the Fire and Highway, which are coming from tax payers from the entire Town.

#### Where do you stand on the issue of Health Insurance for Haverhill employees?

We have great, dedicated, hardworking employees which need to be taken care of. With the rise in expenses all around us, especially insurance, I feel there should be some contribution, perhaps 5%. I don't think there is much of anyplace left that pays 100% of health insurance for employees and families. This is not sustainable. Currently the insurance cost approximately \$1000/month for a single employee; \$2000 for employee/spouse; and \$3000 for employee/family. It costs nearly half a million dollars per year. I would be in favor of at least a 5% monthly contribution. This isn't an exorbitant amount of money (\$50/month for single employee). I would also be in favor of having tiered policies where an employee can contribute less and choose a policy with less coverage/higher deductible (young, single). If they desire a "golden plan" (older/family) they can choose to pay more. If their spouse can get an equal or better plan through their own employer (currently unlikely), they can get off the Town plan and save taxpayers even more money. We must be more in line with the rest of society and workforce. Wages also must be in line with the surrounding workforce.

#### What are your thoughts about Haverhill town administration?

I would not support going back to a Town Manager form of government. It gives too much authority and decision making to one person, outside the hands of the Selectmen, who the people voted for. It is better to have five individuals making important Town wide/financial/employee decisions verses one individual. It requires additional work from the Selectmen to be more involved in the day to day operations, but I feel if you are elected, that should be done anyway. I feel I would be involved the same and contribute my time and effort in either form.

#### What ideas do you have for Haverhill's future?

There is much to do. Everyone has been working on a better relationship between Woodsville and Haverhill, which is great and I hope it continues. We are one Town.

Taxes are now at the forefront and with proper management, oversight and strict financial accounting which has been lacking, hopefully we can maintain a practical tax base. Last year we had unanticipated expenditures along with a difference in anticipated revenue. This, along with everything else in society skyrocketing, caused a significant tax increase. This has to get under control.

It would be beneficial to try and get some additional commercial property to help the tax base, such as occupying the Rite Aid site and Upper Valley Press property.

With excellent hotels and restaurants throughout Town and our close proximity to Franconia, I would like to see more tourism, thus bringing more revenue into Town. There are snowmobile and ATV trails/access throughout Town which helps contribute to this. We can further promote our lodging, campgrounds, fabulous rivers and ponds along with access to the CT River to name a few.

We have a Conservation Commission that oversees open space property for protection and outdoor leisure. We need to continue supporting and preserving farm/agricultural land and open space but also encourage building in some locations to create more housing inventory, which is lacking.

The most important item is to see people happy, comfortable, get along with each other and want to be in this Town. We have come a long way and there is always more to do. I have been honored to serve the Town this past year and sit on a Selectboard of good, honest, hardworking people that truly care about all of Haverhill.

### Adam York

#### What is your view on SB2?

I would not be in favor of adopting SB2. I believe the town meeting format is the fairest and most honest way a town can vote because it gives the residents a voice rather than being a number in a box. The question that needs to be answered in my eyes is, how do we get more participation in the town meeting? Why has the number of people who attend the town meeting dropped in recent years? These questions do have answers, and it is more important to me to get the residents of the town to participate in the town meetings rather than make all votes private. I believe that will only bring more distrust to a town that is already full of it.



#### What are your thoughts about funding for the Woodsville Highway and Fire Departments?

I would like to keep funding the Woodsville Fire and Highway dept. I think it is important to maintain positive relationships with our neighbors. The residents of Woodsville pay their tax just like we do here in Haverhill so their roads and fire dept should be maintained just as ours are. I truly believe that a rising tide lifts all ships so working together should be a top priority in my opinion.

#### Where do you stand on the issue of Health Insurance for Haverhill employees?

Our health is one of the few things in our lives that we have the majority of control over. Having a stake in your own health is important so I do not believe the taxpayer footing the bill 100% for the town employee and family is the correct answer. I do believe the town should have different options that the employees can choose from to meet their needs but there would be a percentage of the cost passed onto the em-

ployee. I am in favor of providing wellness benefits to all town employees providing them with the ability to use the local fitness facilities and the paid time to do it. I don't believe just giving out health insurance is actively investing in your employees but giving them the time to get healthy and reducing the chance of having to use the insurance is.

#### What are your thoughts about Haverhill town administration?

I think that the town administration needs organization and leadership. I have been to the town office multiple times during the hours of operation just to find a closed door and no one in sight. For the taxpayer that has to take time off work to go and sit there it is important that things are handled in a timely manner and the office is open when it says it will be. I believe we have the people in the positions in the town office to make that work it just needs to be executed properly.

#### What ideas do you have for Haverhill's future?

Moving to Haverhill has been a blessing for myself and my family and I want nothing more than to see it thrive. My first focus would be on economic development. We have an area that I believe will attract new business. We as a select board need to be creative in figuring out how to bring in those businesses. I do not want to see Haverhill turn into a tourist town full of short-term rentals which bring no additional benefits to the town. We need to work on attracting people to this area to help ease the tax burden on the current residents. My second focus will be to get the community back involved in the town. "We the people" is a statement that is near and dear to my heart and I fully believe that people hold all the power but if people don't show up, that power goes unused.



## TOWN OF HAVERHILL

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

# SB 2 Hearing

## February 28, 2025

## 6:00pm

Clifford Memorial Bldg  
65 S Court St  
Woodsville, NH 03785

# LETTERS

(and even some real words)

## From The Editor

Trump's DOGE Team is Fantastic!  
To the Editor,

Trump's DOGE is doing a fantastic job! The wasteful spending that was taking place had no benefit whatsoever to US taxpayers and can be actually argued as criminal and treasonous.

The following are just SOME of the ludicrous spending that is being uncovered by Trump's DOGE: \$59 million for a hotel in NYC for illegals, \$56 million to boost tourism in Tunisia, \$20 million for a Sesame Street show in Iraq, \$40 million to build schools in Jordan, \$45 million for DEI scholarships in Burma, \$44.8 million to Venezuelan Migrants in Columbia for food and economic assistance, \$10 million worth of food assistance funneled to al Qaeda and \$520 million for consultant driven ESG investments in Africa. Under Biden's open border and mass parole policies, Congress gave \$31 billion to the DHHS to provide housing, medical and legal services to illegals. From 2021 to 2024, Congress gave FEMA \$2.2 billion to provide support to noncitizens released from DHS

custody. The new EPA administrator Lee Zeldin just canceled a Biden-era \$50 million environmental justice grant.

"Just earlier today, I canceled a \$50 million grant to an organization called the Climate Justice Alliance," he said. "They say that climate justice runs through a free Palestine".

Zeldin also said that his team has located \$20 billion in tax dollars that the Biden administration purposely wasted. Zeldin also found: "An extremely disturbing video circulated two months ago, featuring a Biden EPA political appointee talking about how they were 'tossing gold bars off the Titanic,' rushing to get billions of your tax dollars out the door before Inauguration Day," Zeldin said in a video posted to X, citing another video from December. "The 'gold bars' were tax dollars and 'tossing them off the Titanic' meant the Biden administration knew they were wasting it." Zeldin said the EPA has plans to recover the "gold bars" that were found "parked at an outside financial institution," which he does not

mention by name".

Meanwhile our pentagon spent \$6.1 million on lobster and \$16.6 million on ribeye steak! (Don't forget they could also not account for over 800 billion dollars in spending when they were audited!).

Also we can't forget about the billions we sent to the criminal Zelinsky in Ukraine. (Trump is already asking for minerals from Ukraine in return).

This is where America's tax dollars are going! Now, how much money was given to the people of North Carolina, California and Hawaii after their disasters? Roughly 770.00 each. HOW DISGUSTING! The far left radicals care NOTHING about our own citizens.

THINK about how those billions could be used in our country. Here are some examples: Helping our OWN homeless AMERICAN citizens, helping those who are on low fixed incomes and can barely survive with the costs of living, providing transportation for the sick and elderly who cannot get to a doctor's appointment, rebuilding the Hawaii, North Carolina and

California homes that were destroyed, improving the infrastructure in our country, FUNDING our police, our border patrol and first responders so they can have the best equipment and personnel, creating a GREAT mental healthcare system, creating government funded highly trained security teams for all of our schools, lowering medical costs, making a better Medicare/Medicaid system and increasing social security benefits. Again, there are more things than these that those billions could go to.

Trump and his DOGE team are phenomenal! Cutting this criminal, treasonous spending coupled with getting rid of the government's bloodsucking dead weight departments/bureaucrats, along with the illegals will truly SAVE the American taxpayers a lot of money. Under Trump, I'm sure that the taxes we do pay will now be used for the benefit and interests of law abiding, tax paying Americans. Everything Trump is doing TRULY BENEFITS ALL OF US!

Alex Foryan  
Milan, NH

Orford Taxpayers are #2 in New Hampshire!

To the Editor,

Recently the NH Dept. of Revenue Administration released the 2024 Municipal Tax Rates. In NH there are 234 Towns and Cities, (221 Towns and 13 Cities) and out of the total Orford has the 2nd highest property taxes with a total of \$34.75 per \$1000 assessment, example if your Home and Land were assessed at \$100,000 in Orford your tax bill would be \$3,475. Charlestown, NH is 1st with a total tax rate of \$36.36 per \$1000 assessment.

Your tax bill is made up of four tax rates: County Tax, State Education Tax, Town or Municipal Tax and Local School Tax.

Orford's 2024 total tax rate is \$34.75 per \$1000 assessment, 90.3% of Orford's total property tax bill is our Town and School taxes, Town is 31.2% and School is 59.1%.

How many times have we all heard our friends, neighbors or family members complain about their high Property Taxes, but when asked if they went to the Town or School meetings and participated they say, "No I Didn't".

You the Voter have the power to reduce your Property Taxes, but you have to invest a few hours to do so. Go to your Town Meeting in Orford on March 11, 2025 at 7pm at Rivendell Gym and then School Meeting on Sat. March 15 at 10:00am at Rivendell Gym in Orford, NH.

When you go to Vote, remember this "Low Taxes are the Result of Low Spending". Only you the Taxpayer can control your Property Tax Bills by showing up to VOTE.

Tom Thomson  
Orford, NH

See bottom of page 15 for response.

Alex,

Those of us who live here in the north country are used to working with budgets that are much bigger than our home budgets. I speak of town and school budgets. I consider us lucky to be able to be so close, and have so much control over the local spending of our tax dollars. The national budget is certainly a much bigger and much more far reaching budget. There is probably no way that the average American could ever fully grasp all that is

spent, or how it is spent. That being said, there is probably little doubt in most people's mind, that there has been money spent in manners that do not, and have not, been in the best interest of all Americans. For that reason I am sure that DOGE has a place.

However, I am hesitant in saying that everything President Trump is doing is good for every American. I know I am not perfect and I do not expect anyone else to be perfect. Therefore I will hold judgement on

how good a job President Trump does in his second term until that term is over and history has a chance to look back.

In the meantime I must trust that good decisions are being made for America as a whole. I must also trust that no necessary agencies are eliminated that later prove to have been just that, necessary.

Gary Scruton, Editor

Finally Turned the Corner

To the Editor,

When you see who wrote this letter, it might seem surprising to hear me commend the leadership of the Town of Haverhill after years of doing the opposite. Despite the significant increase in the Town portion of the December tax bill, I believe we are heading in a positive direction. Let me explain.

What we saw in December was an unprecedented 51% increase in the Town tax rate on my bill. Many of us initially thought this jump was due to the recent reappraisal or that something had gone terribly wrong. Wanting to understand the issue fully, I joined the Haverhill Advisory Budget Committee this year and had the opportunity to analyze our finances in detail. I now realize that the reappraisal had minimal impact—the bulk of the increase resulted from mistakes and unfortunate decisions within the Town office. As a result, nearly a million extra dollars had to be

raised through taxes.

I know nobody wants a deep dive into the numbers, but here are the highlights:

Over the past 10 years, Haverhill has raised an average of \$2.6 million in taxes annually - some years slightly more, some slightly less. However, this past December, we raised \$3,986,999—a 47% increase over the \$2,706,320 raised in 2023. At budget time last year, it appeared that things would continue as usual in terms of tax revenue. So, what happened?

The Town employees responsible for completing the NH Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) tax forms and Town report in early 2024 made significant errors. They overestimated revenues by \$567,738 and made some poor financial decisions that contributed to an overlay of \$530,000 when the DRA set the tax rate at year's end. These errors were the primary cause of the increase, while the reappraisal played only a minor

role. (For reference, in this case, an “overlay” refers to funds raised by the DRA to address financial issues not directly related to the budget.)

So, why am I optimistic? First, I hear that we are close to hiring a qualified Town Administrator, and these mistakes should not be repeated this year. Second, three knowledgeable and dedicated citizens are running for the three open selectboard seats next month, and I believe they will do a great job for our town. Selectboard members Theresa Paige and Ron Hurlburt, along with Advisory Budget Committee member Vickie Wyman, have been working tirelessly to get Haverhill back on track and have earned our support.

Having had the opportunity to work with all of them recently, I feel much better about the future of our town. I believe we may have finally turned the corner.

Sincerely,  
Richard Guy  
Woodsville

*that will be the annual School and Town meetings on Saturday, March 15 at the Haverhill cooperative Middle School. In both cases I urge voters to do some thinking before voting. Have an idea of what the results will be of your vote. But most of all, participate. It is a right and a privilege that we all should cherish.*  
Gary Scruton, Editor

*trolled locally, but also by what our representatives to Concord make for decisions. It is not easy to raise money at any level, but there are times when that needs to be the main objective. Find a way to increase state ad for education to the level that the state supreme court and the state constitution require.*

Gary Scruton, Editor

Tom,

*I could not agree more in regards to attending both town and school meetings. Every voter who attends has the opportunity to speak if they choose. But maybe just as importantly every voter has the chance to listen or read what is being presented and make an informed decision.*

*One thing I do have to slightly disagree on is that our school taxes are not only con-*



*NH Right to Work Vote,*

*Thursday, February 13*

*By: Rick Ladd*

The Governor's Budget

As expected, Governor Ayotte's budget message was upbeat, but realistic. Her proposed state budget for the next biennium includes a 3.5% spending reduction. As with family budgeting, the state must also live within our means. Due to tighter times placing increasing economic pressure on Granite Staters, the Governor directed all department commissioners to recalibrate and make reductions where appropriate.

Further details regarding the budget will be made shortly after release of the “Trailer Bill” that traditionally accompanies the Governor's budget with more detailed information. A brief overview of Governor Ayotte's highlighted priorities follows:

1. As previously stated above, overall spending will be reduced by 3.5%.
2. The budget proposes education choice freedom accounts to all public school students, regardless of family income levels. Her proposal made no mention of eligibility for students currently enrolled in private school or being home schooled.
3. Funding will continue in support of the Northern Border Alliance immigration task force, and also appropriates funds for Granite Shield which allows agencies to collaborate on drug interdiction and trafficking.
4. Emphasis will be placed on programs aimed to assist those with development disabilities and others suffering from mental health challenges. The development disabilities waitlist will be eliminated, and an additional \$10M is directed to state

community mental health centers.

5. The community college will receive \$6M to enable more high school students to participate in the concurrent and dual enrollment program. This program provides a wonderful opportunity for high schools students to receive college credit while completing courses before high school graduation. The early start program is a significant step forward making higher education more affordable.

6. To further support the community college system and workforce needs, an additional \$4.4M will be directed to freeze NH's two year college tuition costs, and lastly,

7. The Governor emphasized her intention to prevent the North Country landfill project from coming to fruition. She announced a desire to create a new site committee to address the issue of future landfills. The budget is now in the hands of the New Hampshire House of Representatives. By March 6, all bills with fiscal appropriation notes greater than \$10,000 must be submitted to the House floor for action. The education funding committee is already conducting lengthy work sessions involving legislation addressing education funding, building aid, special education costs, higher education, and more. Once approved by the House, the budget will be sent to the Senate for that body's action on April 10.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rep Rick Ladd, Chair, Education Funding



**TRENDY KITCHEN**

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



# Hamburger Beef Wellington

Hello hello my fellow chefs.

Today's recipe is "Delicioso" and is a very different way to use Hamburger. It was also my first time using puff pastry. My friend Mike and I and Jane really enjoyed it. My picture shows one on the plate with broccoli but we all ate two! The recipe makes 8 and I was a bit worried I made too much but they come light and fluffy and so tasty. Let's get started with today's recipe and how to make it.

**Ingredients**

- 2 eggs beaten plus 1 egg beaten to brush on top
- 1 1/2 lbs. lean ground hamburger ( I used 90% lean 10% fat). You don't want fatty beef.
- 1/3 cup crushed saltine crackers (12

- crackers)
- 2 Tbsp dried parsley
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 Tbsp milk or cream (I used milk)
- 3 Tbsp butter
- 1 medium onion chopped small
- 4 cloves of garlic minced
- 8 oz. Portobello mushrooms sliced
- 1/2 tsp seasoned salt
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 1/2 cup red wine (I used Barefoot Cabernet Sauvignon).
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 1 cup Mozzarella cheese, shredded
- 2 sheets of Puff Pastry thawed (I used frozen Pepperidge Farm in the ice cream aisle)
- Brown gravy - your choice
- Preheat oven to 400 degrees
- Mix eggs, ground beef, saltine crackers,

parsley, salt and milk until combined, put aside. In large frying pan over medium heat melt butter, add onion then mushrooms and garlic, salt and pepper and basil. Cook 5-8 minutes until onions are translucent and mushrooms start to get brown. Add red wine and sauté about 10 minutes to reduce liquid. Set aside. Carefully unfold puff pastry and on floured surface cut each sheet into 4 squares making 8 pieces. On a square, spoon a little mushroom mixture, put a pinch of shredded mozzarella then get 1/3 cup mixed beef form a ball and flatten a little place on top of cheese, fold and pull 4 corners and pinch together to close. It's a little tricky but the dough stretches a bit, then pinch. On lightly greased cookie sheet place seam side down. Cut a cross slit on top and brush with beaten egg. You can fit all 8 on one sheet. They do puff up a bit. Bake top shelf for 35-40 minutes or when nice and brown. Remove from oven and let sit 5 minutes. Heat brown gravy and add any mushrooms left over to it. Oh so good!

You will be a star with this wonderful meal. That's it. Serve with the bottle of wine you used,

Portuguese soup. Your picture looked delicious. Until next time I am signing off. Cin Pin

This was a repeat per request. As she is still unavailable.

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it really compliments the meal. Remember to drink responsibly. Enjoy!

Well folks that's it for today's recipe. If you have any questions please contact Gary and I can help you out. I'd like to give a shout out to Jeanne M. for loving last edition's recipe for