

A FREE PUBLICATION



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# TRENDY TIMES

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802-461-9886

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May 6, 2025 VOLUME 16, NUMBER 17



## Woodsville High School



Woodsville High School proudly announced the Junior Class Marshals, the top CTE student, and the top four students of the year during a special assembly held on April 28th.

The Junior Class Marshals are Gabe Roy and Alyssia Fenn, two students who have

demonstrated exceptional leadership and academic achievement. Paige Royer, a standout in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, was honored as the Top CTE Student for her dedication and excellence in vocational studies. Additionally, Bryce

Williams, Jane Roy, Hunter Duvall, and Sebastian Restelli were recognized as the Top 4 WHS Students for their outstanding academic performance throughout the year.

Principal Hayden Coon shared his pride in the students' accomplishments, saying, "Today's

assembly highlighted the incredible achievements of our students. Gabe, Alyssia, Paige, and the Top 4 exemplify the values we hold dear at WHS—hard work, determination, and leadership. We are proud of everything they have accomplished and excited

to see their future success."

These students represent the best of Woodsville High School, and their recognition serves as a testament to their commitment to excellence in both academics and leadership.

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# TRENDY Dining Guide

## Polly's Pancake Parlor

By:  
April  
Dyke



Well, this past Sunday, we decided to get up and go to Polly's pancake parlor in Sugar Hill, New Hampshire. I dragged Anthony with me this time. I called to let them know that we were on our way to put our names down and the message on the phone said that they are no longer taking names over the phone that it's first come first serve which if you've ever been there it's definitely worth the wait. We were told that it'd be about a 30 minute wait and we were fine with that. When you first walk in, there's a waiting room and then you go through another set of doors and there

is a little store. It's very cute and rustic. When we got up to the counter to put our name on the list, she gave us a beeper/ buzzer type thing so you don't have to sit there and wait right there. We got buzzed and was led to the table. Were given menus and a separate drink menu. I chose a mimosa. He went with water, when she came out with his water and mimosa, she had another water for me. We looked over our menus and I decided on... They had a Three egg omelet with sausage bacon mushroom onion Harmans sharp cheddar cheese instead of toast I went with 2 pieces of French toast which you have a

choice of what bread you want them to cook it. I chose sour-dough. Which they cook it with their own egg batter with cinn and sugar grilled golden. With loaded homefries seasoned in battered potato slices with onions and harmens sharp cheddar cheese sauce. If I

remember correctly, I did love their English muffin so I did get a grilled English muffin with extra butter. Anthony goes with Kathy's choice which comes with choice of three pancakes, two eggs, any style choice of sausage, bacon, ham, home fries, and a choice of

one slice of homemade toast. Scrambled sausage English muffin toasted. So many choices for homemade bread they have white, whole wheat, rye oatmeal cinnamon, raisin, and sour-dough. We got it and it was absolutely fantastic. I of course had to bring mine home. Anthony ate all of his. I had ended up having one more mimosa and we asked for the bill. The total came to. \$71.81 and lefty good tip

*Trendy Dining Guide Ads*  
 This size is \$200 for 6 Issues  
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---

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## OBITUARY: Flora Mary (Palmer) Rowden,

Flora Mary (Palmer) Rowden, age 90, of South Berwick, Maine, passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 27, 2025, at Sedgewood Commons, Memory Care, in Falmouth, Maine.

Born on August 24, 1934, in Lee, New Hampshire, Flora was the daughter of the late Herbert and Flora (Rollins) Palmer.

Flora dedicated three years to her education at Dover High School and went on to graduate from Woodsville High School. On August 7, 1953, she married Frank Rowden in Pike, New Hampshire, embarking on a loving partnership that lasted until his passing on December 21, 1992.

Throughout her working life, Flora was a familiar and friendly face at Hovey's Clothing Store in Woodsville and later at the Waterville Valley Resort. Her life

journey took her through several New Hampshire towns, including Lee, Woodsville, Pike, North Haverhill, Campton, and Rochester, before she settled in South Berwick, Maine.

Flora is survived by her children: Stanley Rowden of North Haverhill, Elizabeth Rowden of Virginia, and Mary Cook and husband Robert of South Berwick, Maine. She will be dearly missed by her cherished grandchild, Patrick Cook of South Berwick, Maine, and her sisters, Donna Palmer of Milford, New Hampshire, and Diana Downing of Wells River, Vermont. Flora also leaves behind eleven nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband and parents, Flora was predeceased by her brothers, Radford Palmer, Roger Palmer, Richard Palmer, and Calvin Palmer. She was also predeceased by her grandparents, Will Rollins and Mary Elizabeth

Taylor Rollins, and Roscoe Palmer and Lillian Arsenault Palmer.

A service to celebrate Flora's life will be held at Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville, 1 Birch St., Woodsville, NH on Saturday, June 14th at 10:00 AM, followed by interment at the Pine Grove Cemetery in Woodsville.

The family wishes to extend their sincere gratitude to the staff of Sedgewood Commons and Beacon Hospice for their compassionate care.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Flora's name to Beacon Hospice, 52 Atlantic Place, Suite B-50, South Portland, ME 04106.

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

## DID SHE OR DIDN'T SHE?

By Maggie Anderson

Recently I've seen several reports of a lawsuit being filed against one of our airlines. It is being filed by a woman who says she was sexually assaulted by a man on a night flight.

She said he put his hands on her and tried to put his hand between her legs but she yelled at him to stop.

According to her, when he touched her the next time, she told him to stop again. She said she didn't want to disturb the other passengers, or have them angry if the plane had to be rerouted, nor did she want the perpetrator to retaliate.

And then she said she froze in the face of her trauma because nobody came to her aid.

I don't know about the rest of you, but I fly all the time and I know if you yell for somebody to stop touching you while you're on a plane full of sleeping passengers, the flight crew would come running to find out what the problem was.

She says she yelled at him to stop, but was careful not to arouse the people in front of her, behind her, and beside her.

But she is blaming the crew for not going to her aid.

Which is it, did she whisper for him to stop, or did she yell for him to stop? And when did she get out of her seat and demand the crew do something about him?

Her lawyer made reference to her terrifying experience. I'll tell you right now, if some dirt bag lays his hands on me, I don't care who I wake, he'll be the terrified one after I break his jaw with a well placed elbow to his face. And I will scream at the top of my lungs that if he tries it again I will make him sorry he didn't upgrade to first class.

Then I'll sue his sorry can for assault before my luggage gets to the carousel.

Please, she yelled repeatedly but nobody heard, and yet in her next breath she tells us she didn't want to anger any of her cabin mates. She might want to find some focus before she takes the stand.

And she needs to know she has every right to punch any creep in the face who lays his hands on her without an invitation.

Then she needs to sue him, not the airline whose employees apparently couldn't hear her yell for him to stop.



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If you're adding a child to your family, it's an exciting time, and you have much to anticipate. Of course, this new addition will bring many changes in your life, so you'll want to be prepared — especially in terms of your finances.

What financial moves should you make as you welcome your new child? Here are a few to consider:

Estimate expenses — and create a new budget. You will likely have several new expenses associated with a new child, ranging from relatively minor purchases — car seat, stroller, crib, etc. — to potentially much larger costs, such as a vehicle with more space or even a new home. You'll need to estimate what you can afford for these initial expenses and then work in to your budget the everyday additional costs — food, clothing, uncovered medical expenses and so on.

Look at options to support taking time off work. Depending on where you live and where you work, you might have some sources of support if you take time off from work after the arrival of your child. These options may include paid time off — such as sick leave and vacation time — paid family leave, short-term disability insurance, and some benefits from the Family Medical and Leave Act.

Determine how child-

care will be provided. Childcare can be expensive and, in some areas, hard to find. Well before the arrival of your child, start looking for childcare, so you can explore your options and start factoring in the costs to your cash flow and monthly budget. During your search, look at offerings from local community centers, religious institutions, and nonprofit organizations, some of which may offer low-cost childcare programs.

Contribute to your emergency fund. It's generally a good idea to keep up to six months' worth of living expenses in a liquid, low-risk account to pay for unexpected costs — and with a growing family, these costs may well increase as your child grows older.

Look at your tax situation. You may want to consult with a tax professional to determine whether you qualify for credits or deductions, such as the dependent care credit, the federal child tax credit, and adoption-related credits (if you adopted a child). Also, you may want to update your Form W-4 to add a dependent — a move that may lower your tax withholding and increase your take-home pay.

Start your education planning. It's never too soon to think about paying for costs associated with your child's education. You might want to consider a 529 education

## Financial moves for a growing family.

savings plan, which offers tax benefits and can be used for college and many vocational programs, as well as some K-12 costs. A financial advisor can help you explore all available education savings options.

Check your insurance. You'll need to add your child to your existing health insurance, but if you don't have insurance, see whether you qualify for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or look for a marketplace plan at healthcare.gov. You might also need to purchase additional life insurance coverage. And with a growing family to support, you might want to add disability coverage to protect your income against short- or long-term disabilities.

Bringing a new child into your life is certainly a joyous occasion — and by being financially prepared, you can make the whole experience even more enjoyable.

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

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## Grandma's Attic Joins the Tri Town Yard Sale

Come and join the Willing Workers on Saturday, May 17 at the Sugar Hill Meetinghouse, 1448 Route 117, Sugar Hill, New Hampshire from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a day of bargain hunting!

The Grandma's Attic arm of the organization has organized a "yard sale" to coincide with Franconia Notch Chamber of Commerce's tri town annual event.

The Attic is currently stocked with books, tableware, small appliances, decorative pieces and much more. Additional items are being brought in for this sale.

Who knows what you will find

at the Meetinghouse from the attic's treasures?

The sale will run rain or shine from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be tables set up outside (or inside in case of rain) as well as access to Grandma's Attic.

Cash or checks are acceptable forms of payment.

The Willing Workers Society, founded November 10, 1920, is a non-profit, non-sectarian charitable organization whose purpose is to foster a spirit of helpfulness throughout the community. Check out their website at: [www.thewillingworkers.org](http://www.thewillingworkers.org)



Richard "Grampy" Boch Sr

Loving Husband, Father, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather, and Friend 1929 – 2025

Richard Boch, beloved patriarch of the Boch family and a visionary in the automotive industry, passed away peacefully at the age of 95 on April 18, 2025. Known affectionately as "Grampy," he was the kind of grandfather everyone wished they had—devoted, generous, and larger than life. Richard was a cornerstone of Boch Automotive, helping build and lead one of the most recognized and successful automotive groups in New England. Through hard work, grit, and an uncompromising commitment to excellence, he played a major role in shaping the dealership into a household name. His passion for the business was matched by his leadership, integrity, and ability to connect with people—from customers to coworkers to competitors. He was respected

## OBITUARY:

### Richard "Grampy" Boch Sr

not just for what he accomplished, but for how he did it.

After retiring, Richard turned his focus to what mattered most: family, and friends. He built a family home in Newbury, Vermont, where for over 40 years, generations of Bochs have gathered to celebrate life together. Whether it was riding the six-wheeler, helping with the garden, snowmobiling, boating, skiing, dirt biking, or riding tractors, Grampy made sure the grandkids always had something fun to do.

He was legendary for his 4th of July parties, where his inner pyromaniac lit up the skies with firework shows that matched his larger-than-life personality. He also had a deep love for gardening and classic cars—always finding joy in both the quiet beauty of the natural world and the craftsmanship of a timeless engine. Grampy was madly in love with his wife, Adele—the love of his life and the heart of the family. Their marriage was a shining example of devotion, part-

nership, and joy.

Richard lived by the motto NEVER QUIT, a value passed down from his father, whose words still echo through the family: "Be clean, be courteous, be square." Those three words guided him in business, in life, and in love. And remember "a man is only as good as his word." He is survived by Adele Boch his four children Richard JR, David, Margo and Robert 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren

A celebration of Richard's life will be held June 11th from 12-3pm at the Olde Colonial Cafe in Norwood, Ma. All who loved him are welcome to attend.

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



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# Calendar of Events

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

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## 2nd Wednesday monthly

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## 3rd Friday Monthly

NEKCA Mobile Food Shelf,  
Baldwin Memorial Library, Wells River

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South Court Street, Woodsville

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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.

June 1

July 6

August 10

September 7

October 5

November 2

December 7

### Pathways Pregnancy Care Center

Pathways Fundraiser & Silent Auction. 5/10/2025 1:00pm.  
Elevate Church 70 Redington St. Littleton NH

### Court Street Arts presents:

Bob Marley

Thursday, May 8th 7:30pm \$38.50

[www.courtstreetarts.org/events](http://www.courtstreetarts.org/events)

Session Americana

Friday, May 16th 7:30pm. \$25

[www.courtstreetarts.org/events](http://www.courtstreetarts.org/events)

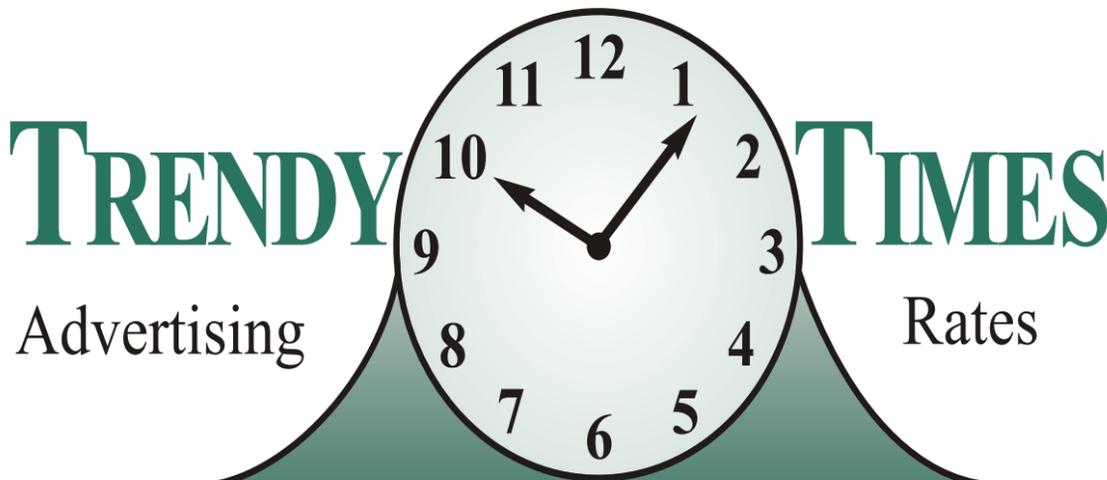
jWREN Gallery and Store

The Gallery at WREN Presents: Hear, Here  
May 7 5 pm

WREN Gallery and Store 2011 Main Street, Bethlehem

Bath Historical Society's Ghost Walk to be held on Friday, May 30th  
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enacting as "ghosts" as well as adult residents.





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80 column inches: 10" wide by 15.75" tall

Municipal Rate will pertain to all Towns and Schools.

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Sample: 2 columns (4") wide by 5" tall = \$50.00

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4"x4" - 6 issues \$225/B&W \$250 color  
Includes One Dining Guide Review

4"x 2" or 2"x4" - 13 issues \$225/B&W \$250 color  
Includes One Dining Guide Review

4"x 2" or 2"x4" - 6 issues \$125/B&W \$140 color

**April Dyke, Owner**  
**Office: 603-747-2887**  
**Cell: 802-461-9886**  
**Email: April@trendytimes.com**  
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Pricing Effective, February 22, 2023

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# Woodsville High School News



Woodsville High School is proud to announce that student Paige Royer placed 5th in her event at the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) National Career Development Conference, held recently in Indianapolis.

Representing both Woodsville High School and Jobs for America's Graduates - New Hampshire (JAG-NH), Paige demonstrated exceptional skill, hard work, and leadership throughout the competition. Her outstanding performance is a testament to her dedication and to the spirit of Engineer Energy and JAG Pride that defines Woodsville students.

The JAG National Career Development Conference draws participation from over 600 JAG students, specialists, and guests from across the country, offering students the opportunity to showcase their skills, attend leadership workshops, and connect with career development opportunities.

"We are incredibly proud of Paige and everything she has accomplished," said Mrs. Jill Nichols, Senior Career Specialist at Woodsville High School. "Paige's determination, professionalism, and positive attitude have been inspiring to all of us. She has shown that with hard work and perseverance, incredible achievements are possible — and this is just the beginning of her journey."

Paige's success at the national level highlights the strength of the JAG program at Woodsville High School and the support students receive as they prepare for college, careers, and life beyond graduation.

The future is bright for Paige Royer and all our students who continue to dream big and lead by example.



Woodsville High School is proud to announce Cody White as this week's JAG Student of the Week! 🏆❤️

Cody, a dedicated member of the JAG program since his freshman year, has emerged as a true leader among his peers. Known for his maturity, positive attitude, and consistent willingness to support others, Cody sets an outstanding example for the entire WHS community.

"Watching Cody's growth over the past four years has been incredible," said JAG Specialist Mrs. Jill Nichols. "He leads by example, treats others with kindness, and continues to raise the bar for himself and those around him. We are so proud of the young man he has become."

Throughout his time in JAG, Cody has earned the respect of both students and staff alike. His leadership, dedication, and compassion have made a lasting impact on the program and on those fortunate enough to work alongside him.

Congratulations, Cody, on this well-deserved recognition!

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



While the spotlight may shine on the performers of Mean Girls: The High School Version, it's Cadence Hunter, a dedicated student at Woodsville High School, who has quietly become an essential force behind the scenes.

As the stage manager for the WHS Drama Club's spring production, Cadence has taken full ownership of her role—learning every line, every song, and every scene transition. In addition to her organizational and leadership responsibilities, she has helped construct and paint the set, created multiple props, and ensured the show runs smoothly from behind the curtain.

Her work ethic and commitment were especially evident during April Break, which she spent entirely at the school, building, painting, and assisting wherever she was needed. Her behind-the-scenes efforts have been a major reason the production is set to succeed.

"Cadence is truly invaluable," said WHS teacher and play director Mr. Emmerton. "She has completely dived into this role and made the show better in every way."

The WHS community extends heartfelt appreciation to Cadence for her creativity, dedication, and the countless hours she has poured into making this year's production one to remember.



In celebration of National Physical Education & Sports Week, Woodsville High School proudly recognizes Mr. Lester for his outstanding dedication to student wellness, physical fitness, and school spirit.

Mr. Lester plays a vital role at WHS, not only leading dynamic PE classes but also fostering a culture of perseverance, teamwork, and healthy living. Whether he's organizing physical activities, motivating students in the weight room, or cheering on our teams from the sidelines, Mr. Lester brings energy and enthusiasm that make a lasting impact.

"Mr. Lester brings unmatched enthusiasm and professionalism to our school community," said Principal Hayden Coon. "He's a role model for what it means to lead by example and support students through wellness, fitness, and sport."

From pickleball to strength training to everyday encouragement, Mr. Lester continues to help our Engineers grow stronger in both body and spirit. His dedication embodies the core values of WHS and inspires students to be their best selves every day.

Woodsville High School extends its heartfelt thanks to Mr. Lester for all he does to support the health, strength, and success of our students.

# Haverhill Select Board Update by Gary Scruton

The municipal government of the town of Haverhill may soon have a new person at the helm. At the April 22 Select Board meeting a majority of the board voted to sign a contract with Municipal Solutions to find viable candidates for the open Town Administrator position. The company promised to have such candidate or candidates ready for final interviews with the select board in about 90 days. Any candidate will have already gone thru an extensive background check as well as job qualifications check in order to be ready to move in and get started. Of course the final say will come from the Select Board itself.

In other personnel matters in Haverhill, one employee has recently resigned in order to move to Florida and take a new, very positive position. Meanwhile both highway and maintenance departments have hired new staff members that appear to be working out very well. The hiring process now includes at least two select board members plus other town personnel to conduct job interviews. Then a recommendation is made to the full board for a final decision.

One major task that has not yet been completed is the final audit of Haverhill's books for 2022. The books have been worked on and sent out for audit, but some questions still are coming back to be answered. The hired accountant is currently working on the books for 2023 and hopes to have those ready for audit in a timely manner. A warrant article that was passed at the 2025 town meeting sought to spend up to \$100,000 on a forensic audit. The select board has not yet set the parameters for that much more extensive and detailed audit.

The Haverhill Select Board also recently made a decision to hold select board meetings every Monday evening at 6:00 pm at the Clifford Memorial Building in Woodsville. By doing so they hope to be able to move more projects along faster, as well as to allow for public input. If a meeting is cancelled notice will be posted in a timely manner so those who had planned to attend will be informed.

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For Further Information Contact **Mike Thomas (802) 757-3960**  
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## Ricker Funeral Home

Burial date correction- the burial for Willis "Willie" Applebee will take place at the Center Haverhill Cemetery on Wednesday, May 7th at 1 PM. We are deeply sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Barbara Elliott, 79, passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 14, 2024. A burial will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 10:00 AM at the Ladd Street Cemetery in Haverhill. [www.rickerfh.com](http://www.rickerfh.com)

Week 3:

Newbury, VT – It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Dorothy Powers Longmoore on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at the age of 90 after a period of declining health.

A celebration of Dorothy's life will be held on Monday, May 12, 2025, at 1 PM at the Townhouse Cemetery in Newbury. [www.rickerfh.com](http://www.rickerfh.com)

Pike, NH - Rose M. (Haddad) Smith, 69, of Pike, NH, passed away on January 28, 2025. There will be a graveside service in the spring at the Pike Cemetery on Tuesday May 13, 2025, at 1 PM. [www.rickerfh.com](http://www.rickerfh.com)

Charlotte Benzie Fadden passed away on Saturday, January 11, 2025. Burial in the spring will be on May 14, 2025, at 1 PM at Horse Meadow Cemetery Annex, Horse Meadow Rd. North Haverhill. [www.rickerfh.com](http://www.rickerfh.com)

Week 4:

Kevin Bruce Fuller, 67, passed away on Sunday, February 2nd, 2025. Graveside services will be held on May 22nd, 2025, at 10:00am at the Newbury Town House Cemetery followed by a celebration of life in the Town House. [www.rickerfh.com](http://www.rickerfh.com)

Gracelyn R. Blaise, 83, passed away peacefully on February 10, 2025. A graveside service will take place on Friday, May 23, 2025, at 11:00 AM at the Groton Village Cemetery, in the new section. [www.rickerfh.com](http://www.rickerfh.com)

Barbara G. Thornton, 86, of Woodsville, NH, passed away peacefully on January 26, 2025. The interment will be in the spring on Friday May 23, 2025, at 1PM at Town House Cemetery, Scotch Hollow Rd, Newbury Center, VT. [www.rickerfh.com](http://www.rickerfh.com)



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# LETTERS

(and even some real words)

## From The Editor

Not even 100 days yet  
To the Editor,  
The man who calls himself president of the United States has not been in office for one hundred days yet and he's already turned our country and the world upside down, especially with his unconstitutional, devastating trade war that has only just started.

He's sending people, including US citizens (one of them only 2 years old) who HE suspects are criminals to horrible prisons in other countries with no Constitutional due process and refusing to return them, even when the Supreme Court orders to do so.

He is holding state governments and universities hostage by threatening punishment if they don't stop supporting DEI programs designed to give fair treatment to all Americans regardless of identity or disability and is trying to erase LGBTQ+ rights.

He has culled the White House press pool to exclude those news organizations who have been critical of him and he's trying to dismantle the Voice of America, the only real

news of the world some people in repressive countries get (I wonder who's going to step up to give US that in a few years when all we have left is Fox "News"?).

His unelected DOGE syndicate has randomly fired government workers including those in the IRS, the CDC, and even the Social Security Administration – the program that was put in place in the 1950s so people could be assured they wouldn't be paupers in their old age. (They're old – let 'em starve!)

He wants to do away with birthright citizenship, a Constitutional right, using only an Executive Order.

He's talked openly about taking over Greenland, making Canada the 51st state, and even attacking Mexico.

He wants to do away with USAID, remove the US from the World Health Organization, dismantle the Department of Education, withdraw from the Paris Climate Accords, and end the government's Meals on Wheels program (something that provides my 97-year-old

legally blind father with the food he relies upon). Why should old people get food? They aren't going to be around much longer, anyway.

He's even talked about trying to find a way to serve a third term in the face of Constitutional limitations that say clearly that he can't.

This would-be dictator is working to circumvent the Congress and the Constitution so he can rule this country by fiat, trying to mold the country into his idea of what America should be and how it should work – damn the founding fathers – and his toadies in the Congress are letting him.

We can't sit by and let it happen.

Join a demonstration and tell him and others what you really think about what he's doing. He REALLY hates that.

Most importantly, turn out next year for the mid-term elections and make him powerless for his final two years in office.

Rachael Booth  
Landaff, NH

### "Communist characteristics displayed by Grafton County 'Chairman of the Board'"

To the Editor,

Today, after months of ZOOMing-in to the Grafton County Commissioners' Meetings, I learned that the link to the meetings was shut down by a directive of the 'Chairman of the Board,' whom, I believe is Martha McLeod. According to the website, "...at the direction of the 'Chairman of the Board,' there is no longer virtual participation for Commissioner meetings." Isn't this something that is done in Communist countries? We certainly don't do this in the USA, and definitely not in the state of New Hampshire, whose motto is "...Live Free or Die!"

Perhaps we should change our motto to "Die! Die! Die!"

Some Grafton County residents cannot physically attend these meetings due to medical or physical reasons, or due to great distances traveling to North Haverhill from all corners of Grafton County which is 500

square miles bigger than the state of Rhode Island.

This is an outrageous abuse of power exerted by the 'chairman of the board,' and if this action was taken by a vote of the group of 3 Commissioners, they should be recalled, or removed from their positions.

It is illogical for these 3 Commissioners and members of the Grafton County Delegation to have approved, and spent millions of dollars of taxpayer monies in the form of ARPA grants to install cable lines throughout the county so residents could be connected to the outside world which includes the Grafton County Commissioners' Meetings only to have the 'chairman of the board' and/or the Commissioners arbitrarily curtail online participation!

It is my belief, after all these months of dutiful participation, that more legislative oversight is needed to curtail the runaway power of Commissioners and the 'Chairman of the Board.'

Nick De Mayo,  
Sugar Hill, NH

Nick,

*Let me point out that until 2020 and the onset of COVID-19 most of us knew nothing about telecommunications in reference to meetings. We all drove or walked to the site of the meeting in order to join in. If we could not do that, then we read the minutes at a later date.*

*One of the committees that I have the honor of sitting on uses ZOOM on a regular basis because at least one of our members is a "snow bird" and would have a very long commute. But we want the input of all our members so this is the practical approach. However at least one other group has very clearly said no to allowing individuals to participate "over the phone" or via teleconferencing, citing a worry about security.*

*I do not intend to defend the choice of the Grafton County Commissioners, because I believe that being transparent when dealing with public funds is very important. But I will say that just like in all of our small towns, we have an elected board that runs a budget approved by a larger group. The day to day actions are left up to that smaller group. In this case the three Grafton County Commissioners. Just to be clear, their budget is approved by the Grafton County delegation which is made up of all of our elected NH State Representatives in Grafton County. That is our system of government.*

Gary Scruton, Editor

Rachael,

*Our country, and maybe even the world, seems to have two sides that are drifting further and further apart. The divide between the two political sides in this country appears to be more separated than any time I can remember in my lifetime. I wish I had an answer to the question of how to bring them back together for the betterment of this country as a whole.*

*As with any administration there are some things being done that make sense to me and some that do not. That is probably true from the top of the election pyramid, all the way down to our local select boards. I firmly believe that none of us will ever agree with every single decision an elected official makes. The best we can hope for is that we have competent, well intentioned leaders who look out for the betterment of as large a majority of people as possible (because it will, unfortunately, never be everyone).*

*I will echo your sentiment that we all need to vote in next year's election. We also have the right, and some would say the obligation, to let our voices be heard when we do not agree with those in office. Gary Scruton, Editor*

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To the Editor,

The so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has proved to be the opposite. Employees are fired and then rehired. On one Thursday morning in February, officials fired more than 300 staffers at the National Nuclear Security Administration; Officials did not seem to know this is the agency that oversees America's nuclear weapons. The agency began rescinding the terminations on Friday morning. (CNN)

Employees are paid not to work. About 75,000 U.S. federal workers accepted the deferred buyout program. It pays employees their regular salaries and benefits until October without requiring them to work. (Reuters) This is ironic because Trump claimed thousands of Federal employees were not showing up for work and then institutes a program that exactly does that.

Trump doesn't fiddle while Rome burns, but according to an NBC News tracker since Trump has taken office, he has spent 12 of 14 weekends at one of his own properties. On nine of the 14 weekends, he has overnights at Mar-a-Lago, where he can often be found on one of his golf courses.

Promises made, Promise Broken: Closer to home Vt. Digger reports the administration ended the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Com-

munities, or BRIC, program in April. This funding stream, was an annual funding opportunity for communities recently hit by disasters. It aimed to shift the federal response from reactive cleanup "toward research-supported, proactive investment in community resilience," as FEMA's website describes it. The program was guided by a philosophy captured in the oft-cited statistic that, on average, every dollar invested in preventing disasters can save \$6 in disaster cleanup costs.

FEMA said it was cancelling all applications to the program from 2020 to 2023 and that money that was awarded as part of grants but not already distributed would be immediately returned to the federal government. Most of the grants that communities had applied to last year, as part of the 2023 funding round, had been outlined and organized but had yet to be awarded. "Those are gone. If it's not awarded yet, it's gone," Stephanie Smith, Vermont Emergency Management's head of hazard mitigation, said. It leaves \$2 million in planned, proposed projects across the state suspended.

The administration said "The BRIC program was yet another example of a wasteful and ineffective FEMA program." My question, "Wouldn't it be more efficient to prevent disasters instead of clean-

ing up and repairing after?"

On March 15, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth used the Signal chat app to share sensitive and classified details of the impending airstrikes on Yemen, including types of aircraft and missiles, as well as launch and attack times. This is the one time the administration was efficient. No need to do a press release after the attack, just add a reporter. National Security Advisor Mike Waltz added Jeffrey Goldberg, the editor-in-chief of the American magazine The Atlantic to the chat.

Vaccines: Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Marty Makary in another inefficiency indicates that the COVID vaccines should be considered as new vaccines and undergo redundant testing. The COVID Vaccine was developed during Trump's first term and proved to be effective and saved many lives for those who were vaccinated.

I don't think this is what the citizens of the United States want or voted for.

I haven't even mentioned the inefficient worldwide tariffs or trade wars with our allies and the eroding the right to free speech. Now is the time to stand up, speak up, demonstrate, and let your elected officials know how you feel  
Richard M Roderick  
Wells River, Vt

**Richard,**

*You are not the first, and I doubt you will be the last, to find fault with programs or the workings of the current administration. As I recall, a similar occurrence happened four years ago, and probably four years before that. As I have said before, no elected official will please everyone. Of course that does, by no means, mean that we should sit idly by and let it happen without raising our voices to the points we object to, as well as to those we may support. Somehow it seems to be easier to yell an objection than it is to yell a compliment.*

*Protests, speaking out, standing up, are all good ways to let your voice be heard, no matter what you are saying. Besides, that is what America was founded on and one of the rights we hold most dear.*

**Gary Scruton, Editor**

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### Op-Ed by Wayne King, Bath, NH

Dear Governor,

Wasting Public Dollars on Private Education is not just unconstitutional, it's bad for our kids and terrible for our Democracy. Reforming Public Education is a better way forward.

While we have never met before, my impressions of you over the years have led me to believe that you are a person of integrity who is willing to take some risks in the interest of good public policy.

New Hampshire is not alone among states where private interests are seeking, for whatever reason, to funnel more and more public dollars into private educational institutions.

They may have the best of intentions, but the effect, nonetheless, is the same. It is consistent with a near-50-year trend, resulting in the transfer of wealth from middle and working-class families, that has led to the greatest disparity of wealth in our nation's history.

In New Hampshire, the means for achieving this result has been what are termed "Education Freedom Accounts," which translates into the Freedom to transfer the hard-earned dollars of average folks to those who choose to opt out of the American educational compact, first established through the genius of John Adams in the Massachusetts and New Hampshire constitutions.

The public education of our children lies at the heart of building a

stronger sense of community, and public education was the key to what Adams and many of our founders felt was essential to the long-term health of democracy.

In fairness, public dissatisfaction with our public education system has been growing for a long time.

We all bear some responsibility for permitting this to happen. Not out of malice, but at least in part because we have not had a leader who could marshal our imaginations toward a vision of something better. I think you could be that kind of leader.

Let me be clear about something here. I'm not talking about "tax reform."

The lines on that matter have been pretty well drawn over the years. I crashed my own Kamikaze plane into that aircraft carrier myself back in 1994, and yet today, we are still fighting over it. All the while ignoring what we could be doing to clarify the mission, especially in ways that serve the long-term and career interests of our kids.

I'm talking about genuine reform of the way that we educate our kids to prepare them for success in this new world.

Frankly, I'm betting that adapting our system may help resolve the funding question as well over the long-run, because a system of education that strengthens our sense of community, our democracy, and our faith in our direction and the future of our children will help create a consensus, as time goes by, for the level

of spending that is appropriate to the challenges we face.

We have some great resources in New Hampshire who can be helpful to you. RMC Research in Portsmouth has been a leader over the years in innovative change, in fact, Everett Barnes, the CEO, was the teacher who changed my own life back in elementary school and he was a source of inspiration for my own zeal to reform our public schools back when I was in the State Senate and then as a candidate for Governor.

Tom Raffio, of Delta Dental, who has been a hero of mine since he helped my Alice found the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium Foundation, has been working with the NH Coalition for Business and Education to advocate for Competency-Based education. He has proven to be the kind of leader in NH that could help marshal public support.

Tony Wagner, of Holden, is one of the foremost authorities in the world on educational effectiveness, and Fred Bramante, who has worked tirelessly since I first met him as an opponent in that same race for Governor, has dedicated countless hours over more than 20 years to helping develop a new set of "Competency-based standards" for our public schools.

These standards bring us from the era of education defined by "seat time" to an era where competency defines the bounds of our kid's dreams, where children have a

passion for learning, and graduate from high school already on a glide path to a meaningful career.

Now, Fred is a very charismatic fellow, but he is not the Governor. Seizing upon the work he has done with others to craft these new standards for "competency-based learning" could become the thing you are most remembered for years from now, especially if you use this as an opportunity to not only reform the way we learn together but also if you use it as the opportunity to redirect our gaze homeward to our public schools.

I recognize that this final suggestion will be the most difficult for you, but it will also speak the most loudly to both the families of our kids and the amazing educators who truly do want the best for them.

I suggest that you announce your intention to END Educational Freedom Accounts on a timetable fair to those who have recently enrolled their children, with the goal of implementing a rigorous system of Competency-Based Learning and returning the public funds to the public schools to make our schools the model for re-

inventing public education in the US.

There will be some, on all sides of these questions, who will be critical of what I have said here, and there will be some who feel that I have professed too much faith in your integrity and vision, but I have always prided myself on being a radical centrist first and foremost. That is the reason I am no longer associated with either political party.

My political days are behind me, but I still dream of a day when our schools are once again the center of our communities. I stand ready to help in any way I can to make that happen.

You can be the Governor who really launches us on this path, beginning with the appointment of the next commissioner of Education. The standards, ten years in the making, have already been adopted by the State Board, but the commitment to them has been uninspired at best. The challenge is in their implementation. It is a legacy that will be remembered long after you are gone from public life.

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To the Editor:

So, how are you liking the first 100 days of the second Trump administration? How about all the higher, higher unemployment, unstable business environment, disrupted supply chains, shaky stock market, national security fiascos, and rampant corruption and lawbreaking in the federal government? And coming soon: a record deficit federal government budget, closing of more federal offices, fire sale of government assets, and more fraud, waste, and abuse. The Musk-Trump gang is raking in billions as they shake down law firms, media organizations, and other U.S. companies. The on-again, off-again tariffs make it tough for investors, unless you're one of the gang with access to inside information on which tariffs are about to

go up or down combined with the data stolen and analyzed by DOGE hackers so you can predict market movements.

Do we really believe that we should leave our government and our future in the hands of corrupt billionaires and a wanna-be dictator? The Russians have tried that for decades, and it hasn't worked out very well, except for a few of the oligarchs.

Closer to home, the Dept. of Commerce announced last month that the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment program will be changed to allow Musk's Starlink company to qualify for much more federal funding. This is despite the fact that satellite systems (like Starlink) are inferior (slower, less reliable, higher lifecycle cost) to the fiber optic systems al-

ready planned for. This change will impact rural areas in particular, resulting in more costly, slower, and less reliable internet access for places like northern New Hampshire. So much for "efficiency".

U.S. law states that special government employees such as Musk can serve a maximum of 130 days. Musk is legally required to be removed from his position by May 30th. Thanks to our U.S. Representative, Maggie Goodlander, and other members of Congress for sending a letter to President Trump demanding Musk be removed in accordance with federal law. Hopefully Trump complies with this law—at least that would give us something to look forward to.

Respectfully, Tom Stephens Landaff, NH

Tom,

*In the history of the United States, I am pretty sure I am correct in saying that we have had presidents that did not please all of the voters. But for almost 250 years this country has survived, and flourished. Of course our current constitution was not enacted until 1787, some 11 years after we declared our independence. But still our form of government has worked for more than two centuries.*

*One interesting aspect is that we have the opportunity every two years to select every single member of the House of Representatives. Certainly some members of that body have been there for much more than two years. But we also get the opportunity to elect one third of the senate every two years.*

*Not every state gets to vote on a senator each time as they serve six year terms. Plus we get to vote for president every four years. With all these opportunities to make choices as to who will represent our wishes, we are bound to make some errors. We are also bound to get it right. We, the voters, have done so in both directions, on multiple occasions.*

*It is my opinion that we must do our best to maintain our rights and the rights of others. We must follow the rules and regulations that have been passed, whether we do or do not like the people enforcing those rules and regulations. And we must always look to the future while remembering the past, in order to keep this country strong and moving forward. Gary Scruton, Editor*



The lamb up front is letting his family know it's Dinner time.

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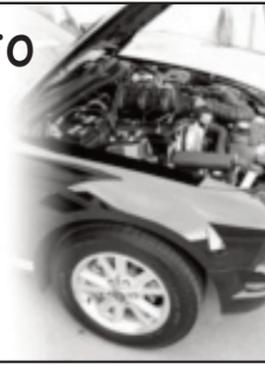
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# Squashysoise or Zucchini Soup

Today's recipe was my first recipe and it's perfect for now because it's zucchini season and this is a great and different way to use zucchini. It's easy peasy and "Delicioso". So let's get started with today's recipe and how to make it.

- Ingredients
- 4 onions chopped small
  - 2-4 Tbsp butter
  - 2 Cups zucchini sliced (if you have more than that it's okay. Eyeball a small to medium zucchini)
  - 4 Cups of chicken broth
  - 1 Cup of milk
  - 1/2 tsp salt or to taste
  - 1/2 tsp pepper or to taste

In a large skillet melt 2 Tbsp of butter and sauté the onions until almost translucent and add the zucchini and 2 more Tbsp of butter if you need it and sauté until tender. Then put the zucchini and onions and 1 cup of chicken broth in a blender and blend until smooth. I usually have to do it in two batches. You don't want to fill the blender to the top because it can easily overflow. When blended put in a soup pot and add the rest of the chicken broth and the milk and salt and pepper. Heat through and mix well but don't boil it because it could curdle. Guess what, you are

done. It's creamy and delicious. You can add a dollop of sour cream on top or even croutons. This soup can be served hot or cold. I prefer it warm. It reheats well in the microwave or on top of the stove.

Please give this recipe a try because your family will love it and you will be a star.

Well folks that's it for today's recipe I hope you enjoy it and make it again and again. Stay safe, healthy and cool my friends. Until next time I am signing off.  
Sincerely,  
Cin Pin



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