

A FREE PUBLICATION

MEMORIAL DAY

Next Issue: Tuesday, June 03
Deadline: Thursday, May 29

TRENDY TIMES

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

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

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Woodsville Wells River 4th of July Celebration

The theme has now been set for the 2025 celebration of our nation's birth. The theme is "Stars, Stripes and Hometown Vibes". The theme is important as it counts toward the score for those entering floats in our two state parade. As usual the parade will step off at 11:00 AM on Friday, July 4 from the Woodsville Ele-

mentary School and travel west on Route 302 (Central Street) across the Veterans Memorial bridge into Wells River. The parade then makes a U-turn just before the Wells River Fire Station and disbands just south of the junction of 302 & Route 5. The theme will also be used for those decorating store fronts in the Woodsville

Wells River area. Plus, brand new for this year, there will be a kids' coloring contest. based on the theme. Rules for that are still being finalized, but entries will be available on Friday, July 4 at the Woodsville Community Field.

The Community Field will also be the site of live music, a DJ, food vendors and a flea

market. There will be the traditional Bingo tent. Other activities are still in the planning stages. The night will end with a Gigantic Fireworks display starting at 10:00 PM.

The Woodsville Wells River 4th of July Committee is still looking for volunteers to help facilitate all these activities on the 4th. It won't take



your whole day, just a small part of it. If you would like to volunteer, please visit our Facebook page, our website www.wvr4th.org or contact Gary Scruton at president@wvr4th.org. Or simply call Gary at 603-348-4563.

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TRENDY Dining Guide

Lisbon Area Historical Society Museum to Host Open House during Lilac Festival

LISBON - Lisbon Area Historical Society (LAHS) will host its Annual Museum Open House at 9 Depot Street, Lisbon, on Saturday, May 24, 2025 from 10-4 during Lisbon's Lilac Festival. Visitors will be greeted by Dori Hamilton, who will be spinning and knitting on the museum porch. Inside are new exhibits about medical care in Lisbon, Lyman, and Landaff, including items from the Dr. Eugene B. McGregor archive and the Kerry Marshall archive. The Marshall archive includes the iconic café table and chairs from Marshalls' Family Drug Store, a Lisbon landmark for 60 years and a pharmacy site for 122 years. For decades, townspeople sat in those chairs and stood around that table in the morning and afternoon to enjoy coffee, soda fountain treats, a bit of local gossip, and plenty of political discussion.

take an audio tour and take part in our selfie scavenger hunt! Kids can enjoy coloring, designing greeting cards, a scavenger hunt, and searching for the Museum mascot, Marty the Mouse. May is National Preservation Month, and Dorothy Wiggins, LAHS President, encourages everyone to visit the Museum, "As Brian Wilson, Director of the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources explained at our 2023 grand opening, it is very unusual for a new museum to open in New Hampshire, especially in the North Country. While LAHS has been in existence since 1964, we purchased a historic building in 2021 and renovated it to house our lasting museum. LAHS is an example of what a small non-profit can accomplish. Our Board of Trustees, members, donors, and volunteers have made our journey successful. We hope you will stop by the LAHS Museum and see the results. Also, we have many interesting projects in the works, and we are always looking for volunteers." For more information visit www.lisbonarea-history.org, email lisbonareahistoricalcalsociety@gmail.com, or give LAHS a call at 603-838-2003.

Visitors can also enjoy the new Community Showcases featuring LAHS members' collections: Marcie Zaharee's Panama souvenirs and beautiful mola from the Kuna people and Doug and Debbie Erb's "Cheesy Story" about operating Landaff Creamery on their Springvale Farm. There are other surprises and something for every age. Bring your cell phone to

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This size is \$200 for 6 Issues
Plus A Restaurant Review
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For More Details
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OBITUARY:
**Etienne
Phillippe
Gonthier**

Etienne Phillippe Gonthier (formerly known by his nieces and nephews as Uncle Teddy Bear) passed away at 56 years old at his home in Woodsville, NH. Born May 15th, 1968, he grew up in Windsor, Vermont, and graduated from Windsor High School in 1988.

In his youth, he was in Boy Scouts for 5 years, an avid train enthusiast since early childhood, preferring N gauge, but also worked with HO and garden trains. While in High School, he worked on local farms baling and stacking hay as well as driving and working with his dad at Coca-Cola in the summertime.

He drove a school bus for 21 years, studied the Holy Bible, and took seminary classes through the Worldwide Church of God. Etienne enjoyed working with his hands, doing farming, auto work, home repairs, gardening, and helping his mom at the local food pantry.

He kept a positive attitude, loved music, and bright, cheerful colors.

Etienne is survived by his father Hubert "Duffy" Gonthier; his mother, Arlene Phyllis (Maxham) Gonthier; his brother Aaron Gonthier Sr, and wife Angelea; his sister, Michelle Gonthier; Nephews, Aaron Gonthier Jr, Joseph Gonthier, and Johnathan Gonthier; Nieces, Jeannette (Gonthier) Smith and her husband Charles "Charlie" Smith, Grace Anne Gonthier; Great Niece, Elizabeth "Lizzy" Smith; and many loving aunts, uncles and cousins.

Calling hours will be Thursday May 8, 2025, from 5-7 at Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville, 1 Birch St. Woodsville, NH. There will be a graveside service on Friday May 9, 2025, at 10 AM at Plains Cemetery, Plains Cemetery Road, Perkinsville, VT

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

**The Bath
Library
Book Club**

The Bath Library Book Club will be discussing "The Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman on Monday, June 9 at 5:00 pm at the Bath Public Library. "The Thursday Murder Club," a New York Times bestseller, is a "laugh out loud whodunit."

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes. They are the Thursday Murder Club. When a local developer is found dead, the friends find themselves in the middle of their first live case. They might be senior citizens, but they are cleverer than most. As the bodies pile up, can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer, before it's too late?

Books may be picked up at the Bath Library; hours are Monday and Wednesday 9:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm; and Saturday 9:00 am to noon. Anyone with an interest in reading and conversing about books is welcome to attend. For information, please contact the library at 603-747-3372 or email bath-libraryljh@gmail.com

**By Maggie Anderson
HOW TIMES CHANGE**

I remember trying to hustle our oldest daughter Bethany to the car one day, can't remember why she was dragging her feet, or why I needed to hurry, but as we passed him, the meter reader said "well, Sis, my legs aren't as long as yours."

To which I countered, Sis, my foot, this one's mine.

Then, when Bethany was in second grade I had a parent-teacher conference in the middle of the afternoon one day - while I was in the middle of hanging wallpaper for a guy who lived at the top of the hill we used to take the kids to so we could sit and watch the annual 4th of July fireworks - from above.

I was in my overalls, had my hair in pigtails - so I didn't dredge them in the wallpaper paste every time I stuck my brush in - and I was probably sweating like a thoroughbred in the Derby to boot.

I stashed my brushes, grabbed my car keys, left a note for the guy in case he came home and found his bathroom half done and me nowhere in sight, and ran down to the school to await my turn with Bethany's teacher.

I sat in one of the chairs she'd left by her door and tried to be patient while she talked with the parents of one of Bethany's classmates.

When the conversation ended, she walked them to the door, and went back to her desk. I figured she was making some extra notes about how the meeting went, and I sat and waited for her to call me.

She finally came to the door, peeked out at me and asked if there was something I needed. I told her I had come for Bethany's parent-teacher conference. That's when she asked me why Bethany's mother couldn't make it.

Still not sure she believed me when I told her I was Bethany's mother.

I was really indignant.

As I went through the airport scanner last week, one of the TSA agents looked down, realized I was still wearing my shoes, and said to me "Are you over 75?"

I said, "Yes I am, but thanks for asking!"

I was so pleased I almost kissed her.

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Marriage is more than a ceremony — it's a union of families and finances. When you and your partner are honest with each other about money and financial goals, it can help build trust, leverage your strengths and help pave the way for a financial happily ever after. Since talking about money can be difficult, begin with conversations not so much about money itself but about the things that matter to you. You'll find these are also your financial priorities and a good way to see if you're on the same page, or how far apart you might be.

Here are a few conversation starters.

Make a list of short- and long-term goals — from buying a house to retiring early. Do you want children? Will one of you change careers or go back to school? See where your lists overlap and where some goals may be more important to one partner.

Ease into the financial implications. If you plan to grow your family, would one of you like to stop working or reduce your hours to provide child care? If more schooling is a priority, what kinds of changes might that require?

Share your feelings about money. How did your family treat money while you were growing

up? What does money mean to you — security, freedom, stress or something else? Are you both spenders or savers, or is there one of each?

Before your big day, or early in your marriage, decide how you'll blend your financial lives.

Fully disclose your current financial situation. Discuss each partner's assets and debts and how, or if, you'll combine them. There's no one right answer — the key is for you both to agree. In nine community property states, all assets and debts are shared 50/50 after marriage regardless of individual or joint account status. Check to see whether yours is one of them.

Align on your budget and spending. This can empower you to spend within your means while moving toward your financial goals.

Determine who will handle the various tasks of managing money. Who is responsible for which bills, who files the taxes and when will you consult each other on financial decisions like major purchases — a car, perhaps, or a major household appliance?

Once you're married, there are a few things to address right away. You may want to consult with financial, tax and legal professionals to help avoid pitfalls and identify opportunities.

Employer benefits. Newly married employ-

What
Comes
After, 'I
do?

ees usually have a 30-day special enrollment period to update certain benefit elections — such as health and life insurance.

Adjust the W-4 tax withholding on your employee forms to reflect your marital status and ask your tax professional which tax-filing status makes sense for you.

Insurance policies. Combine and update policies and beneficiaries, including adding each other to auto insurance policies if you drive each other's cars.

Estate documents. Now with a family, prepare for the unexpected. Create or update a will, medical directive, and financial and health care powers of attorney, and you may want to explore whether a revocable trust is appropriate.

Getting married is perhaps one of the most exciting times of your life. As you commit to a lifetime together, make sure that includes a financial commitment. By starting a habit of financial discussions now and returning to them periodically, you can help set yourselves up for a lifetime of financial compatibility, stability and freedom.

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

*Come listen to
April every other
friday morning on
WYKR for the
latest news in
Trendy Times*

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The North Country Chamber Players will put on Annual Explorers Free Concert, May 31

The North Country Chamber Players have been an integral part of the music scene of northern New Hampshire for over 47 years. They are well known for their magnificent summer festival performances, outreach in schools and their annual Explorers Concert.

The Explorers Concert, Saturday, May 31, 4pm at Lisbon Regional School is designed specifically for children, their families and friends, and the curious of all ages and musical backgrounds. The program is riddled with interaction, opportunity for questions and some surprises. This year's concert will provide an inside look at how performers and composers use music to forge friendships, foster dialogues, and inspire creative learning opportunities, both in person and across time and space.

This concert is free due to generous underwriting. Our donors want to make sure that all have access to the accomplished musicians of the North Country Chamber Players in this relaxed, fun concert setting.

The Explorers concert tradition began years ago geared to youth, yet the Players found that a vast age range would come, "tap their toes" and gleefully participate.

Here are the musicians who will be performing and sharing their instruments: Bernard Rose, piano—Bernhard Scully, horn -- Susan Nidel, flute -- Kemp Jernigan, oboe -- Ronnie Bauch, violin -- Miki Sophia Cloud, violin -- Ah Ling Neu, viola -- Chris Finckel, cello -- Donald Palma, double bass.

The program will feature pieces by: W. A. Mozart, Paul Dukas, Sir Edward Elgar, Johann Sebastian Bach and more.

Event pre-registration is helpful, but walk-ins are welcome!

To learn more about the Explorers Concert, the musicians, their free summer lessons and their robust spring-summer season in the North Country, visit northcountrychamberplayers.org.



OBITUARY: Jerrold C. West,

Jerrold C. West, 81, of North Woodstock, NH, passed away peacefully at his home with his family by his side on May 11, 2025.

He was born on March 15, 1944, in Porter, ME, to Maurice and Elizabeth (Weeks) West. Jerrold spent his childhood in Kezar Falls, ME, and attended high school in Conway, NH, graduating from Kennett High School with the class of 1962.

Jerrold married Sharon Snow on January 12, 1966. They soon made their home in the Lincoln-Woodstock area, where he worked in the hospitality industry and raised his family. Following Sharon's death in 2001, Jerrold married Kathy Oliver on October 28, 2003. He dedicated over 30 years to the hospitality industry, retiring as General Manager from Lost River Gorge in 2003.

He was predeceased by his parents; his first wife, Sharon West, on May 16, 2001; and his brother, Chester Earl West, on March 19, 2014.

Jerrold is survived by his loving wife, Kathy West of North Woodstock, NH; his three sons, Chester M. West of Lincoln, NH,

James L. Bond and his wife, Ashley of Burlington, VT, and Jonathan P. Magoon and his wife, Jamie of Cape Cod, MA; his two daughters, Kimberly Zalla and her husband, Steven of Lincoln, NH, and Kelley Pequeno and her husband, Jose of Lisbon, NH; five grandchildren, Travis Landry, Alexandria Pequeno, Gaige Pequeno, Lynn-Marie Tilden, and Joshua Magoon; and two great-grandchildren, Reid Edward and Zayden.

Jerrold enjoyed fishing, hunting, woodworking, and carpentry, skills he put to work building and improving on the facilities and infrastructure at Lost River. He also built little gifts for his family and friends. He and Sharron would often help area children who found themselves in need of a safe environment. He was a member of the Woodstock Fire Department and an auxiliary officer for the Woodstock Police Department.

There will be no public services. To offer the family an online condolence, please visit www.rickerfh.com Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is



OBITUARY: Kathleen "Kathy" Fiske (Towle)

Kathleen "Kathy" Fiske (Towle), age 84, of Washington, Vermont, went home to be with the Lord on Friday, May 2, 2025. Kathy was born on July 25, 1940, in Hyde Park, Vermont, the daughter of Elwin and Natalie (Brown) Towle.

Kathy spent her childhood in Morrisville and Ryegate. She had amazing musical talent, starting at a very young age. She graduated from Woodsville High School in 1958. On August 1, 1958, she married her beloved husband, Kendall G. Fiske. They lovingly raised two daughters in South Ryegate.

For several years, Kathy worked for the State of Vermont. Later she worked with Kendall in the family businesses, Fiske Sales and Service, and Fiske-Murray Transport. Kathy was proud to be a saved, born again Christian since 1958. She was a devoted member of the Groton Baptist Church where she played the organ and was the choir director. She and Kendall then moved to Washington, Vermont and became a member of the Washington Baptist Church.

Kathy was predeceased by her parents, Elwin and Natalie (Brown) Towle, and her beloved husband, Kendall G. Fiske. She was also predeceased by her two brothers, Alan and Erwin Towle.

She is survived by her two daughters, Caren Murray of Washington, VT, and Jackie Carey and her husband Michael of Barre, VT; grandchildren, Greg Murray and his wife Ashley, Jaime Murray, and Brad Carey and his wife Becky; great-grandchildren, Savannah, Shawn, Kendall, Boden, and Finn; a sister-in-law, Sandy Towle; and nieces and nephews.

Calling hours will be Thursday May 8 from 10 to 11 AM at the Ricker Funeral Home and Cremation Care of Woodsville, 1 Birch St. Woodsville, NH, with the funeral service at 11, followed by a brief service and burial at Pine Hurst Cemetery in South Ryegate.

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

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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.

November 2

December 7

EVERY SUNDAY

BETHANY CHURCH WORSHIP

SERVICES

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2nd Wednesday monthly

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Groton Free Public Library

Bath Historical Society's Ghost Walk to be held on Friday, May 30th at 6:30 PM on the Bath Common with Bath Village School students enacting as "ghosts" as well as adult residents.

3rd Friday Monthly

NEKCA Mobile Food Shelf,

Baldwin Memorial Library, Wells River

Lisbon Area Historical Society

Coffee, Cars and Curiosity

June 4

10am-12pm

25 Central Street, Lisbon

WEEKLY EVENTS AT:

CLIFFORD MEMORIAL BUILDING

South Court Street, Woodsville

PICKLEBALL

Tuesday & Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM

Saturday mornings at 9:00-10:30 AM

LINE DANCING every Wednesday evening

6:00 - 7:00 PM

ANTIQUÉ STROLLERS WALKING PROGRAM

Monday – Friday from 11:00-12:30

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FOLK MUSIC JAM - 1st and 3rd Saturdays at

10am, Pope Library (Community Center) in

Danville, VT.

"Back porch style", sit in a circle and take

turns choosing a tune/song. Listeners welcome.

For more info or to confirm date contact (library) 802-684-2256

or (Vicki) 802-535-6069.

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

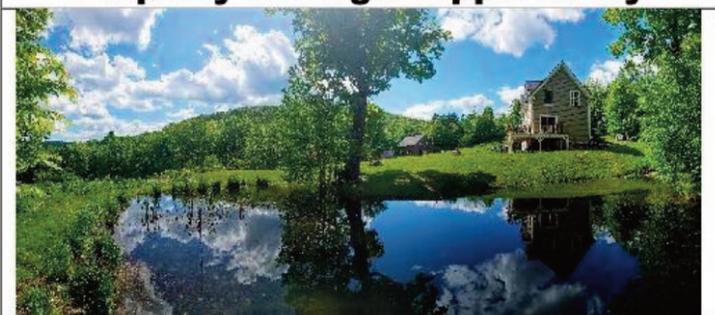
July 6

August 10

September 7

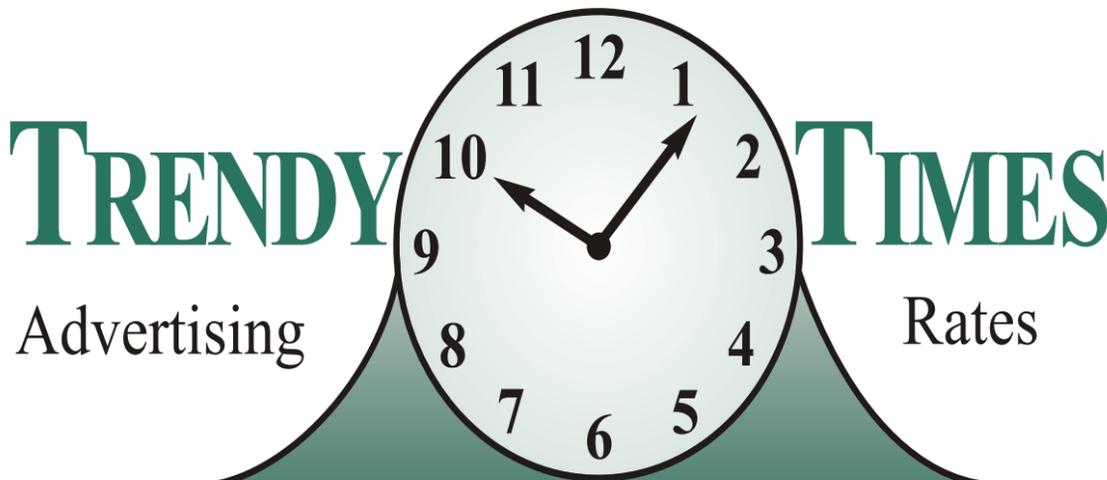
October 5

Property Manager Opportunity



Private party seeks manager for **Song Sparrow Cottage**. We value: Reliability, communication, character, energy and "can-do" attitude. You will be "hands-on" with property management, for our guests including cleaning and refresh of property. Skills with minor repairs, carpentry, painting, and household maintenance a plus. Please browse to link below for full details.

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Quarter Page - color \$150

20 column inches: 4"x10", 6"x6.667 or 8"x5"

Half Page - Black & White: \$200

Half Page - color: \$265

40 column inches: 6"x13.33" or 10"x8"

Full page - Black & White: \$350

Full Page - color: \$450

80 column inches: 10" wide by 15.75" tall

Municipal Rate will pertain to all Towns and Schools.

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These can be Notices of meetings, help wanted, whatever.

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BACK PAGE:
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per column inch"

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Includes 2 Dining Guide Reviews

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
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📷 Pictured left to right: Robin Keith, Heidi Fulford, Kendra Strout, Laurie Restelli, and Dorothy Gove (Not pictured: Lois Ireland)

"Our nurses are the heart of our school communities," said Superintendent Dolores Fox. "They support our students with professionalism and compassion, and we are incredibly grateful for the critical role they play across SAU 23. Today, and every day, we thank them for their care and commitment."

SAU 23 extends heartfelt appreciation to all of our school nurses for everything they do to keep our schools healthy, safe, and supported.



Woodsville High School News



Woodsville High School is proud to recognize Faith Griswold as a standout senior and dedicated member of the Jobs for America's Graduates - New Hampshire (JAG NH) program.

Faith joined JAG during her sophomore year, and since then, she has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, commitment, and personal growth. She has served as a chapter officer for the Woodsville High School JAG program for the past two years and has also held a state officer position, representing her peers at the statewide level.

Most recently, Faith represented Woodsville High School and JAG NH at the National Career Development Conference, competing in public speaking against students from across the country. Her poise and professionalism at the national level are a testament to her dedication and hard work.

Looking ahead, Faith will be attending Southern Maine Community College in the fall to pursue a degree in Radiology. In addition to her academic goals, she has also been recruited to play softball for the college, balancing her athletic and professional aspirations.

"Faith leads with grace, strength, and determination," said Mrs. Jill Nichols, JAG Specialist at Woodsville High School. "She inspires those around her and represents the heart of what JAG is all about. I can't wait to see what she accomplishes next."

Woodsville High School congratulates Faith on her accomplishments and wishes her continued success in college and beyond.



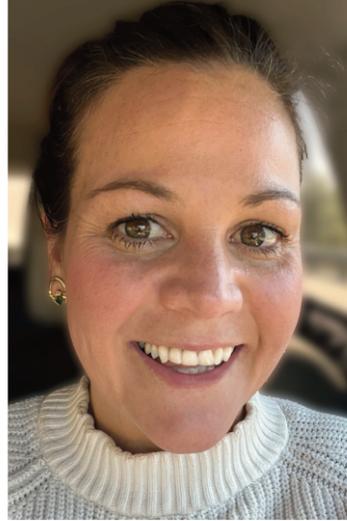
Local historian, author, and lecturer Michelle Sherburne visited Woodsville High School last week to present "Wentworth Cheswill's Ride" to Mr. Scianna's Period 4 U.S. History I class.

During her engaging presentation, Ms. Sherburne shared the powerful and often overlooked story of Wentworth Cheswill, a patriot of the American Revolutionary War. Students learned of Cheswill's remarkable contributions—not only as a midnight rider like Paul Revere—but also as a teacher, judge, archaeologist, and the first person of African descent elected to public office in the United States.

Students were captivated by Sherburne's deep knowledge and passionate delivery, gaining new perspectives on Revolutionary War history and the diverse figures who shaped the nation's founding.

📷 Pictured (L-R): McKayla Walker, Grace McLellan, Addison Eck, Fox Garcia, Michelle Sherburne, Kate Maccini, Reilly Chase, and Shawn Walker

Woodsville High School is proud to connect students with local experts and historical voices who bring curriculum to life and deepen understanding of our shared past.



Woodsville High School is proud to spotlight Mrs. Ryan, our talented and passionate art teacher, whose creative leadership has once again brought the WHS Spring Arts Festival to life.

The festival, taking place on Thursday, May 15th, will showcase the incredible artistic achievements of WHS students. The Art Show begins at 5:30 PM, followed by the Spring Concert at 6:30 PM, both held at Woodsville High School.

Throughout the school year, Mrs. Ryan has inspired students across all grade levels to explore their creativity through a variety of mediums—from painting and sculpture to mixed media and fine crafts. Her dedication to fostering a welcoming and expressive environment has made the art room a true hub of imagination and personal growth.

"Ms. Ryan creates a welcoming, expressive environment where students thrive. Her impact is visible not only in the art displayed but in the confidence and joy her students show every day," said Mr. Hayden Coon, Principal of Woodsville High School.

Woodsville High School invites the community to attend the Spring Arts Festival and experience firsthand the vibrant and diverse talents of its students. Admission is free, and all are welcome.



The Woodsville High School Band recently enjoyed an unforgettable day at Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox, combining their love of music with America's favorite pastime.

During their visit, students had the unique opportunity to meet Josh Kantor, the talented and renowned organist for the Red Sox. Kantor shared his experiences and passion for music, inspiring WHS student musicians and offering a behind-the-scenes look at what it's like to perform in one of the most iconic ballparks in the country.

The day was filled with music, memories, and the unmistakable #Engineer-Energy that WHS is known for. From the cheers of the crowd to the classic sounds of ballpark tunes, it was a perfect experience for these talented students to witness the power of music on a grand stage.

"We are incredibly grateful to Josh Kantor for taking the time to meet with our students and share his journey," said Mr. Wright (Band Director) "Experiences like these show our students how music can bring people together and create unforgettable moments."

Woodsville High School thanks everyone who made this trip possible and looks forward to more opportunities for students to explore their passions beyond the classroom.

Photo (L-R)- Josh Kantor, Brogan Gaffey, Iwan Jones, Leah LeBrun, Andre Chumbes, Riley Fagant, Corbin Poirier, Mr. Strauch, Liam Fagnant, Mr. Wright, Mila Townsend, Mr. Coon, Ayla Burbank, McKayla Rhoads, Emaline Tice, Emily Blanchard, Gaby Smith, Riley Emmerton, Cody White and Eli Vasconcelos.

The Woodsville High School JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) program is proud to recognize senior Paige Royer for her extraordinary leadership, dedication, and achievements throughout her four years in the program.



Paige has been a committed member of JAG since her freshman year, and during that time, her leadership skills have grown tremendously. She served as President Elect of both the WHS JAG Chapter and the New Hampshire State Career Association during her junior year. In her senior year, Paige rose to the challenge once again, serving as President at both the

chapter and state levels—an impressive accomplishment that reflects her unwavering dedication and passion for helping others succeed.

In addition to her leadership roles, Paige demonstrated outstanding career readiness skills, earning 1st place in Employability

Skills at the state level during both her sophomore and senior years. Most notably, she achieved 5th place nationally at the JAG National Career Development Conference held this past April.

Paige is a role model for her peers and younger JAG students, consistently encouraging and inspiring others to lead with confidence and pursue their goals. The legacy she leaves behind is one of resilience, leadership, and success.

"This year has been an amazing journey, and having Paige by my side made all the difference," said Mrs. Nichols, WHS JAG Senior Career Specialist. "She leads with grace, works with passion, and shows every student that they can achieve greatness. I couldn't be more proud of her and everything she's accomplished. Her future is incredibly bright."

Woodsville High School and the JAG program congratulate Paige Royer on her remarkable accomplishments and wish her continued success as she embarks on the next chapter of her journey.



OBITUARY: Robert, "Rut" Rutledge

I am sad to share the passing of my little brother, Robert, who was known as "Rut" to everyone. I am sad because he was my only brother, but relieved because he is no longer suffering. He was born on May 7, 1960, at Cottage Hospital to Donald and Ramona (Edson) Rutledge.

Rut lived his entire life in the town of Newbury, and for more than 30 years, he resided on Wallace Hill Road. His last visit to Cottage Hospital was on April 1st, for a small procedure. However, he changed his mind and decided against it, expressing his desire to be at home on his couch, done with doctors and hospitals. He said, "If the big man wants me, that's where I'll be." The big man came for him on May 5th, 2025.

He grew up annoying his sister, Sherry Riffenburg, enjoying dirt bikes,

fishing, and hunting, with hunting being his true passion, as evidenced by the several deer heads mounted on his living room walls, along with a 30 lb. King Salmon he caught.

He was a true Vermonter, a real American, fierce and independent, living and passing on his terms.

I imagine him being reunited with his buddies Steve Stacey, Jim Roystan, Dale Powers, Jimmy Stearns, Jay Vigent, and many others... I'm sure they were all there to greet him. I will miss you, little brother.

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

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Ricker Funeral Home

Short Notices RFH Week 5

Alice Marilyn (Langmaid) Seminerio, age 97 of East Haverhill NH and Concord MA passed away on March 5, 2025, at Emerson Hospital in Concord MA. She was born April 9, 1927, in Auburn NH, daughter of the late Rev. Norman Jason Langmaid and Alice Dunham (Harvey) Langmaid. She will be laid to rest in East Haverhill Cemetery on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 1 PM.
www.rickerfh.com

South Ryegate, VT - William "Bill" Albert Cassidy, 78 of Scott Hwy, died unexpectedly at his second home in The Villages, FL on Tuesday, December 10, 2024. Interment will be at Peacham Village Cemetery on Saturday May 31, 2025, at 10AM.
www.rickerfh.com

Carol Miller Maxwell, 87, (1937 – 2025) passed away peacefully to be with her Savior, Jesus Christ on January 8th. There will be a graveside service on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at 1 PM at the Blue Mountain Cemetery in Ryegate.
www.rickerfh.com



OBITUARY: Betty Ann Knowlton,

Betty Ann Knowlton, 92, of Barnet, Vermont, passed away in her sleep with loved ones by her side on Friday, May 2, 2025, at Bel Aire Center in Newport, Vermont. She was born on March 23, 1933, in Hardwick, Vermont, to Mildred (Bailey) Gates and Elmer Van Ness Gates. She attended Hardwick Elementary School and graduated from South Lancaster Academy (South Lancaster, MA) in 1951. Married, Howard Larkin Knowlton, after graduation on June 2, 1951, in South Lancaster, MA. After the wedding, they returned to Hardwick Vt, where their 2 children were born at Hardwick Hospital (Dr Warren delivered Betty and both other children in the same room). They moved to St. Johnsbury in 1965, where, along with raising her family, she worked at The St. Johnsbury House and then Desrocher's Pharmacy before becoming the Bookkeeper for Knowlton's Welding. They moved to Barnet in the early 1970s and loved living there for the next 50 years. She and Howard (Slim) were married for 71 years before he passed away in 2022. In 2024, she moved from Barnet, where they had lived for 50 years, to the St. Johns-

bury House, where she loved living until her passing. She was a member of the St. Johnsbury Seventh-day Adventist Church. Mom never met a stranger, so if you knew Betty, you were probably on her long prayer list. She was the light of our lives. Her wit and wisdom never ceased to amaze us. She loved border Collies and loved playing games of all sorts. Along with many family members and friends, she leaves behind her son, Roger (Cabot) & his wife Lois, their 2 daughters, Kelly and her husband Phil, Chelsea and her husband Kirk, 3 great granddaughters, Ella Izzy and Lily; her daughter, Martha and her husband Scott (Walla Walla, WA) and their 3 sons, Alan, Aaron, & Adam. Mom will surely be missed, but we look forward to seeing her soon when our Savior returns to take us home. To offer the family an online condolence, please visit www.rickerfh.com. Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is assisting the family with arrangements.

LETTERS

(and even some real words)

From The Editor

With Disgust
To the Editor,

I am an American Navy Vietnam veteran. I served my country with distinction for almost nine years in Military Intelligence as a Chinese and Arabic linguist and then, in civilian life, by programming the Navy's AEGIS Shipboard Missile Defense Systems for thirty years. I recently watched with great pride as one of those very ships shot down every missile the Houthis had fired at Israel knowing that I had been an integral part in making that happen.

I am proud to have dedicated my entire adult life, both in and out of uniform, in service to my country.

Now, a wanna-be dictator, draft-dodger and convicted felon who has called our servicemen and women "suckers and losers", a man who is gutting the VA and wants to get rid of the Veterans Day national holiday, wants a full-blown military parade complete with tanks to honor him for his upcoming birthday.

Rachael,

First let me thank you for your service to our country, both as a member of the US Navy and as a civilian supporting our armed forces. Without a strong military our country would not be what it has been over the past almost 250 years. And without a strong military in the future it will not be able to continue to offer all of us the rights and privileges that we have come to know and love.

I will note a few items here that all celebrate June 14 as a special day. It was June 14, 1775 that the US Army was first founded. That means that this year they will celebrate 250 years of existence. June 14 has also been known as Flag Day since the late 1800's. it wasn't until May 30, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation establishing June 14 as National Flag Day. It took Congress until 1949 to make it nationwide observance. And thirdly, June 14 is also the birthday of President donald J. Trump. Fourthly, Flag Day is a day where many American Legion posts (including my home Post #20 in Woodsville) where a special celebration is held to ceremonially destroy old, worn US flags. In fact the public is always welcomed to come and observe this ceremony in the parking lot behind the American Legion Post home.

So there are many reasons for celebration on June 14, this year and every year. A parade is a nice way to celebrate. It will matter most as to the perspective of those attending, observing, and commenting on its meaning.

Gary Scruton, Editor

Picture China, North Korea, Russia and others, countries ruled by despotic strongmen, showing off to the world the might and "genius" of their "Dear Leaders" by staging choreographed goose-stepping parades that only hide the ineptitude and cowardice of those leaders who desire nothing but total control over their citizenry.

That is the path America is now taking.

I cannot begin to describe the disgust and loathing I feel at the mere thought of a military parade in our country honoring this man-child who is great only in his delusional mind. If I could, I'd be sitting in the middle of Pennsylvania Avenue blocking any attempt to let this assault to our democracy happen. I sincerely hope that the millions of real patriots like me who CAN go to stop this travesty will do so en masse.

Know that I will be with you.

Rachael Booth
Landaff, NH

Grafton County Register of Deeds opposes forced courthouse move

To the Editor,

In reading the recent article published on April 30 in the Journal Opinion by Amy Ash Nixon on the proposed Grafton County Courthouse project, I am propelled to fill in some potholes.

I have served as the Grafton County Register of Deeds since 2011. Our valuable and historic office was once in the courthouse, outgrew the space and was relocated to the Administration Building 20 years ago.

I inherited a mess. I have worked tirelessly to bring my voice to address the neglect and mismanagement of all things Grafton County. I have totally redesigned the layout of our refurbished vault and repackaged all historic documents, as a labor of love.

It has been too easy since the new jail fiasco to solve our collective challenges by ignoring them long enough for the real end goal to be exposed, which is new and shiny at the expense of the taxpayer.

In 2011 the Delegation had reached its tolerance level and ordered a performance audit of all de-

partments. This document cost roughly \$40,000. It is available at my website and my Substack account and clearly spells out the root problems at this county government. I have never stopped advocating for a Master Plan of this county complex. I have been ignored, harassed and made the subject of a coordinated effort of character assassination.

Fast forward to 2025 and a flood of muddy water under the bridge, with a new Commissioner, a new Chairman and the fence sitter slinking to the side for cover. The Board of Commissioners are the new experts on every subject.

Our newest Commissioner stated in a meeting that it's not like the registry is bringing in any new documents and everything is done online. This is the most willfully uneducated statement that I have heard in a long time. The one before that was the new Chair who is ultimately responsible for direction and decisions on the failing farm operation asking how the cows stay warm in the barn.

As of last week, the board has completely crawled under a rock by removing the online meeting link to view Commis-

sioner meetings. A link that both the Delegation and I have long sought. This is what happens when light is cast on shady characters. Retreating to the shadows is not transparency in government. Dealings and decisions made outside of public view are a matter for our Attorney General's Office of Public Integrity. I have empathy for our County Attorney's position, and I am hopefully optimistic with the arrival of our new Sheriff. I like what I see so far.

I have too much to say to address in one letter to the editor, my arsenal of words is prepared for the long hot summer and fall ahead. I will be hosting a weeklong open house in late September or early October. I invite all to make your own decisions regarding contacting your Delegation member on your thoughts of a forced relocation of this wonderful and historic office and this ill-conceived project.

In my opinion, this is the most ridiculous time to build anything of this magnitude in this uncertain and variable environment of cost control.

Kelley J. Monahan
Grafton County Register of Deeds

Kelley,

Cost control is an issue for every person, whether they are on a fixed income budget, or a small business owner, or an employee with a great paying job. At the end of the day there is only just so much money, and it will only go just so far. (Of course there are a few exceptions such as billionaires). Determining the priority for spending those dollars is the job of the person or persons in charge of the "checkbook". In the case of Grafton

C o u n t y, that re-

sponsibility rests in the County Delegation, made up of our elected state representatives. We, the individual voters, can only pass along our thoughts and concerns. It is their job to make the final decision.

So yes, voters who are concerned, whether for or against a new courthouse, should contact their local state rep and let them know your views. That is a major part of their job description ... listen to their constituents.

Gary Scruton, Editor

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To the Editor:

It would be unfair to compare the Trump administration to the Ulysses S Grant Administration. The Grant administration is routinely labeled as one of the most corrupt in U.S. history. However, he was never personally involved with any of the scandals that arose during his tenure; Grant's honesty and personal integrity was never questioned. (UVA I Miller Center) The same cannot be said of Trump. He continues to bring disgrace to the office of the presidency. He constantly lies. How do you tell if he is lying? His lips are moving.

Trump has made a mockery of the US immigration statues by fast tracking a group of white South African Afrikaners. The Afrikaners are among the richest and most successful people in South Africa, and they are amongst "the most economically privileged." [AP news article and (see also the Guardian's Mar 10, 2025 news story) on Musk]. Conversely, on March 21, 2025, his Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem decided to terminate Temporary Protected Status for Afghanistan. (US immigration Service), breaking the promises made to the Afghans. The Afghans risked their and their families' lives helping American soldiers fighting in Afghanistan. This is how Trump thanks them. If it looks like racism, sounds like racism, it is racism.

If you watch news footage of his Mideast trip you hear his incoherent words and see Mideast leaders openly laughing at him. In Qatar, Trump accepts a 400-million-dollar jet from the Qatar Government. Trump said that it would be

"stupid" for him to refuse Qatar's offer of the Boeing 747-8 airplane, which would be used as U.S. "Air Force One" and given to the Trump Foundation at the end of his term. (Reuters) This is in direct conflict of the emoluments clause, a provision of the U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 9, Paragraph 8), that generally prohibits federal officeholders from accepting gifts, payments, or other benefits of value from foreign states without the consent of Congress. It is designed to prevent conflicts of interest and undue foreign influence on U.S. officials.

And how is DOGE doing? Despite promises to cut spending during the campaign and his first few months in office, President Trump's federal government has spent more than \$200 billion more in his first 100 days compared to the same time period last year. (CBS) Other examples of corruption are: Musk using the White House grounds to pitch his Telsas, giving Musk access to citizens private data for his own use, Musk browbeating countries like Bangladesh, Viet Nam and Lesotho to buy Starlink systems and Trump firing the Inspector Generals, the government watchdogs who jobs are to root out fraud and corruption. It is time for Republicans to stop being yes men to Trump and billionaires and start governing for the citizens of the United States. And as Americans we must not lose faith and continue to speak up, demonstrate, write letters and call our members of congress and the White House. Our democracy depends on it. Richard M Roderick Wells River, Vermont

Richard,

It is certainly the right, the privilege, and even the duty of all American citizens to speak up. Whether you agree or disagree with what is happening at the US White House, the Congress, the state capitals, or even your local board of selectmen, speaking up is one of our founding principles. We all need to be sure we do not forget that right, and use it on a regular basis.

Gary Scruton, Editor



Mark Noyes passed away peacefully on May 7, 2025, at the Grafton County Nursing Home in North Haverhill, NH, at the age of 87. He was the son of Marion (Clark) Noyes and Mark Floyd Noyes, Sr., grew up on the family's dairy farm on Brushwood Road in Pike. Mark graduated from Haverhill Academy in 1956 and received an associate's degree from International Correspondence Schools. He was employed by the USDA Conservation Service as a surveyor in both New Hampshire and Massachusetts. He was also a member of the NH National Guard in the early 1960s with basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey,

OBITUARY: Mark Noyes

and stationed at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas.

In 1983, Mark married Virginia Dennis. They enjoyed tending to their property, garden, pets, and pond. He was always grateful for Virginia's companionship and loving care. In 2021, they moved to the Grafton County Nursing Home. While a resident, he always expressed his deepest appreciation for the care and support provided each day.

Mark was a faithful Christian and a former member of the Advent Christian Church at Center Haverhill until it closed in the 1990s. He then attended the Calvary Baptist Church in Woodsville, NH.

He was also a former Mason. Mark was very sociable and loved to laugh. He made friends easily over his lifetime and was truly kind and generous. He enjoyed fishing, card games, community gatherings, and long walks. He was a fan of TV westerns and John Wayne movies. He loved sharing stories and tall tales with his sister, his nephews, and their families.

Mark is survived by his wife, Virginia, sister Alice Hodgdon of Bow, NH, three nephews and their wives, Steven and Jennifer Hodgdon of Auburn, NH, Scott and Ruth Hodgdon of Gilford, NH, and Paul and Amy Hodgdon of Epping, NH, godson and great-nephew John, great-niece Eve, and great-nephews Connor, Brady, Ben, and Teddy.

There will be a graveside service at the Center Haverhill Cemetery on July 12 at 10 am. Memorial donations may be made to Horse Meadow Senior Center, 91 Horse Meadow Road, No. Haverhill, NH 03774.

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Lisbon Area Historical Society (LAHS) Invites the Public to "Coffee, Cars, and Curiosity."



Lisbon Area Historical Society (LAHS) Invites the Public to "Coffee, Cars, and Curiosity."

Lisbon, NH — History buffs, antique car enthusiasts, and coffee lovers alike are invited to step back in time at the Lisbon Area Historical Society's upcoming event, Coffee, Cars, and Curiosity on Monday June 2nd from 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

Join us for Coffee, Cars, and Curiosity, a unique gathering at the Lisbon Rail Trail parking lot, located at the corner of Central and Atwood Streets in Lisbon. Start your day with a freshly brewed cup of coffee inside the beautifully restored 1870 Railroad Station Museum, 25 Central Street. Step outside to admire eighteen stunning Ford Model A antique automobiles from the 1920s and 1930s, chat with the owners, and soak in the nostalgia of these classic vehicles.

After taking in the sights, head over to the LAHS Museum, conveniently located right next door, where exhibits, artifacts, and storytelling offer a look into local history.

"This event is a great opportunity for residents and visitors to connect over coffee, appreciate the beauty of vintage cars, and explore the remarkable history housed in our museum," said Dot Wiggins, President, LAHS.

LAHS is dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich history of Lisbon, Lyman and Landaff, New Hampshire. Through various programs, exhibits, and events, the society aims to educate and inspire the community by highlighting the stories and achievements of our residents. For more information, visit <https://lisbonareahistory.org>.

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New Summer Events for Children at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum



Athenaeum Children's librarian Becky Hatfield announces several exciting offerings for children this summer, including a Fire Department Storytime, Nature Stories, Saturday Storytime, and more!

"The Children's Library is excited to present our summer reading theme of Color Our World," said Hatfield. "This summer we'll brighten our community with fun events based on colors, nature and art. Along with these programs, we'll offer our weekly storytimes and special monthly programs. Sign up for our summer reading program and stay for our colorful events!"

Events birth-6:

On Wednesday, June 25 10 am, the St. J Fire Department will present a very special Storytime at the Athenaeum, followed by a fire truck tour! The Four Winds Nature

Institute presents a fun hour of nature stories and discovery play on July 11 at 10 am (rain date July 14).

A new Saturday Storytime event for children is offered every Saturday at 10:30 am. Assistant Children's librarian Karen Haskell offers stories, songs and play.

Events 6-10:

Children are invited to Puppets and Pezzettino on June 27 at 12:30 pm. Start with pizza and Italian Ice, read the book Pezzettino by Leo Leoni, and create a unique Pezzettino – a colorful and abstract chain puppet made of connected strips of paper.

The whole family is invited to Bird Tales with storyteller Michael Caduto on July 9 at 1 pm. Caduto immerses the audience in participatory stories about our fine feathered friends from around the world,

with music and dance.

The Athenaeum's Summer Reading Program for Children runs from June 2 through August 2. Each participant receives a free book. Other events for children and youth continue through the summer at the Athenaeum, including The Music Man, Yoga for Kids and Caregivers, Tween Book Club and Art Club, Young Artist, and several Storytimes each week. See the Athenaeum website at stjathenaeum.org. Events at the Children's Library are free, ADA accessible, and open to the public.

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