

A FREE PUBLICATION

September

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Deadline: Thursday, October 02

TRENDY TIMES

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802-461-9886

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September 23, 2025 VOLUME 16, NUMBER 27

Retirement Announcement - Merl Grabowski

After 45 years in the radio industry, serving in many roles, Merl Grabowski is retiring in September from the Radio New England Broadcast Group. Merl started his career, in July 1980, working part time on weekends at WSTJ-AM 1340 in Saint Johnsbury, Vermont. After earning a communications degree from Lyndon State College, Merl started working at WYKR in Wells River as an announcer, mostly working weekends, then weekday afternoons. Then, Merl worked briefly, as part of the

morning show team at WMTK-106.3FM, Littleton, NH before accepting his first full time announcer job in 1987 at WIKE, Newport, VT. In 1988, he worked at WCVR, Randolph, VT, eventually promoted to Program Director. In late 1988, Alan Noyes hired Merl to be the Morning Drive Time Announcer and Operations Manager at WSNOWORK, Barre, VT. In 1995, Merl traded his microphone for a sales book and was hired back at WYKR-101.3FM. He worked for the Puffer Family many years until August

2018, when he got married, moved to Newport, and started working for Vermont Broadcast Associates. In 2021, he returned to WYKR until September 2024, eventually promoted to Sales Manager, under new ownership. Merl's final job was the Group Sales Manager for the Radio New England Broadcast group, representing multiple radio stations serving Northern New Hampshire, and Northeastern Vermont. Merl continues to live in Newport, with his wife Darlene, and family.



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ANDY ALWAYS SAID "AND ANOTHER THING"

I didn't want to risk a plagiarism charge so I've left the opening line to Andy. But there were a couple of things that occurred to me this past week or so and I thought it was time to dump a load of them here.

If a bartender gives a patron one drink too many to avoid a punch in the face, and that overloaded driver gets behind the wheel and kills somebody on his way home, the authorities are quick to drag the bartender into court to answer for plying his patron with liquor.

The guy who fell from the stands at a MLB game a few years back is now trying to convince the authorities it was all just a simple accident and had nothing at all to do with the booze his best friend provided him while he was still under the legal age to get drunk and act stupid.

The authorities have a different take and his friend is going to answer for his stupidity, and his bruised buddy's as well.

The gun maker is often targeted when somebody with an ax to grind goes home and shoots his parents because he doesn't like the house rules.

The car manufacturer is often dragged into litigation when a driver puts the pedal to the metal and blames the manufacturer's faulty brakes for the reason he couldn't make that turn at 80 MPH.

Somebody has to answer for things, somebody always has to take the blame. Right?

So when a slime ball rapes a young girl, cuts off her arms, shoves her into a gully, and leaves her to die, why are those who let him out of prison early because of his good behavior, and gave him the opportunity to kill a young mother, not expected to answer for that?

And who has to answer for atrocities committed by a person who is released, over and over again, and has now killed a young woman whose only crime was seeking asylum in a place far from the war ravaging her own country.

Who answers for what he did to her?

And when do we begin to demand these people with all the right answers start to answer for tragedies like this one?

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Woodsville High School



Woodsville High School Principal Hayden Coon and Assistant Principal Matt Kelly were special guests this morning on WYKR 101.3 FM, joining host Stephen Puffer to highlight the many positive initiatives taking place at WHS.

During the interview, the administrators discussed upcoming events, student opportunities, and the school's ongoing commitment to building strong partnerships with families and the wider community.

"Woodsville High School is about more than just classes — it's about preparing students for success in life, and that means partnering with families and our community every step of the way," said Principal Coon.

The appearance underscores WHS's dedication to keeping the community informed and engaged. With approximately 225 students in grades 9–12, the school continues to provide a wide range of academic, athletic, and extracurricular opportunities designed to foster student success and pride.



Woodsville High School is proud to introduce the 2025–2026 Student Council Officers, a dedicated group of student leaders who will represent the WHS student body and help guide school spirit, activities, and student engagement throughout the year.

From left to right, this year's officers are:

TJ Quigley – Publicist

Eli Vasconcelos – Treasurer

Riley Emmerton – Vice President

Katie Houston – President

Alyssia Fenn – Secretary

Advisor Mr. Scianna expressed his enthusiasm for the newly elected officers, stating:

"This team has the passion and creativity to make a real difference at WHS. I'm excited to see the positive impact they'll have on our school this year."

The WHS Student Council plays an important role in giving students a voice, planning events, and fostering community connections. From spirit weeks and dances to service projects and leadership opportunities, the Student Council helps to build and maintain the strong culture of Engineer Energy at Woodsville High School.

Woodsville High School congratulates these students on their leadership roles and looks forward to another exciting year of collaboration, creativity, and student-driven success.

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Financial tips for first-time college students

Sending your child to college is an exciting milestone filled with new experiences, friendships and opportunities for them to grow. For many families, it's also the first time your student will be managing their own money independently.

The good news is that helping your child develop smart money habits doesn't have to be overwhelming. With a few simple strategies, you can guide them to take control of their finances and avoid common pitfalls that trip up many college students.

Start with a budget. Creating a budget might sound boring, but it's instrumental in helping your student take control of their finances. Many people use the 50/30/20 rule, which calls for putting 50% of income toward needs, 30% toward wants and 20% toward savings and other financial goals. So, if your child has \$1,000 per month from financial aid, work or family support, they'd spend \$500 on essentials like textbooks and food, \$300 on fun activities and \$200 on savings or paying down debt.

Encourage them to track their spending and subtract anything they pay out from their total monthly funds. This helps them know exactly how much money they have at any given time. There are plenty of free apps to help monitor expenses, or they can simply use a notebook to write down what they spend each day.

Guide them toward smart credit habits. That first credit card in college can be both

exciting and scary for parents. The key is helping students understand how to use credit wisely by paying off their balance on time every month. This helps build a positive credit history that will help them qualify for better rates on car loans, apartments and eventually a home mortgage.

Make sure your student understands that credit cards aren't free money. It takes discipline to charge only what they can afford to pay off completely when the bill arrives. Otherwise, late fees and interest charges can be substantial.

Pay attention to everyday expenses. College life doesn't have to break the bank. Remind your child to take advantage of student discounts available at restaurants, clothing and grocery stores and entertainment venues.

Help them set spending limits for discretionary categories like entertainment, dining out and personal expenses. Here's where that budget can help set clear limits to prevent overspending. It's easier to say no to that expensive coffee or designer clothing when they know it would put them over their weekly limit.

Think about the future.

While it might seem early to worry about life after college, making smart financial moves now can benefit them later. If your student has loans, consider encouraging them to make small payments while they're still in school, even though they're not required to do so. This reduces the amount of interest that builds up over time.

Encourage an emergency fund, even if they can only save \$25 per week. Having money set aside can give them flexibility after graduation, whether they want to move to a new city for a job, take time to travel, purchase a used car or pursue graduate school.

Teaching your child to manage money in college isn't just about helping them survive until graduation. The habits they develop now will shape their financial future for decades to come. By guiding them to start with a simple budget, use credit responsibly and make thoughtful spending choices, you're helping set the stage for success in college and beyond.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Scott Borthwick
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BECOMING WOLF: THE EASTERN COYOTE



OUR TOPIC: COYOTES AND WOLVES

Did you know that an eastern coyote is defined as much by its western coyote ancestry as by the DNA contribution from the eastern wolf? Coyotes in the northeast vary physically and behaviorally from their smaller western relatives while still maintaining their incredible adaptability. Chris's talk delves into the ecology and behavior of this creature, its indefatigability, and how humans must adapt to live with the coyote.

On the horizon, however, is a native carnivore that fled the northeast during wolf removal and now may be trying to return: The eastern wolf. A look-alike to the coyote, it has been killed mistakenly for its similarity of appearance to the coyote. We'll talk about how the wolf and coyote might negotiate a truce in the northeast and how we might do the same.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES AND REFRESHMENTS
The Sugar Hill Improvement Association invites the public to this talk--free of charge--on Thursday, October 9 at 4:30 pm. The talk will take place at The Sugar Hill Meetinghouse at 1448 Route 117 in Sugar Hill. Light refreshments will be served.

As an extra treat, an

area doctor has offered to lend his taxidermized Wolf (rumored to be quite large) and Coyote to us for this talk, so be sure to bring your camera with you!

Carolina Crapo Education Fund: This program is underwritten as a part of the Carolina Crapo Education Fund. This fund was established by Henry Crapo, in honor of his wife, Carolina shortly after the Sugar Hill School burned to the ground in 1948. The funds are administered by elected Sugar Hill Trustees for projects identified by the Sugar Hill Improvement Association for the betterment of the town of Sugar Hill. The Carolina Crapo Trust fund provides book awards for students pursuing their ongoing training or schooling in addition to bringing speakers to the town.

Christine Schadler :
Speaker

Chris' interest in wild canids began in the 1970s as a volunteer at Wolf Park in Battleground, Indiana. This opportunity and others inspired an eventual Masters in Conservation Biology at Antioch University in Keene. Her thesis focused on the Natural Recovery of the Eastern Timber Wolf in Michigan. Chris lived in Michigan and Minnesota during the early 1980s where her research into the

gray wolf continued and her speaking career began.

Beginning in the early 1990s, Chris taught Forestry, Wolf Ecology and Environmental Conservation in the Natural Resources Department at UNH. She also instructed and mentored adult degree candidates in the UNH System at Granite State College. While wolf recovery was the focus of her early work, since the 1970s Chris' attention shifted to the Eastern Coyote. In fact, co-existing with the eastern coyote was put into practice on her sheep farms where no lethal measures and no predation occurred, ever. She is the NH & VT Rep for Project Coyote and Co-Founder of the NH Wildlife Coalition, which advocates for better conservation for predators. She is also a member of the Northeast Wolf Recovery Alliance.

Chris holds a Master's in Conservation Biology and offers 40 years of research and specialization in wild canids, particularly the Eastern Wolf and the Eastern Coyote. Now retired from teaching Conservation, Dendrology and Wolf Ecology at UNH and Conservation at Granite State College, she provides education and presentations on coyotes and the wolf throughout New England.

A talk with Christine Schadler, an expert in wolves and wild canids
NO FEE: Sponsored by the Carolina Crapo Education Fund, a Sugar Hill Improvement Association Fund (no fee)

DATE:

Thursday, October 9, 2025
TIME: 4:30-6:00pm
SUGAR HILL LOCATION:
Sugar Hill Meetinghouse
1448 Route 117, Sugar Hill,
NH 03586

If you were in Sugar Hill on the night of the full Harvest Moon, you could hear the coyotes talking back and forth to each other, their barks and snarls echoing back from Garnet Hill and wafting down the hill into Franconia. From Sunset Hill, they sounded very close. Here's an opportunity to learn a little bit about these vocal canid neighbors of ours.

OUR SPEAKER, CHRISTINE SCHADLER:
On Thursday, October 9,

The Sugar Hill Improvement Association is sponsoring a talk by Christine Schadler, an expert in "wild canids" like the wolf and the coyote. Chris has a long and very successful career on this very subject matter. Chris' interest in wild canids began in the 1970s as a volunteer at Wolf Park in Battleground, Indiana. This opportunity and others inspired her to pursue a Masters in Conservation Biology at Antioch University in Keene. Her thesis focused on the Natural Recovery of the Eastern Timber Wolf in Michigan. Chris has 40 years of research and specialization in wild canids, particularly the Eastern Wolf and the Eastern Coyote. Now retired from teaching Conservation, Dendrology and Wolf Ecology at UNH and Conservation at Granite State College, she provides education and presentations on coyotes and the wolf throughout New England.

Be sure to tune in to WYKR on the Friday before Trendy Times hits the news stands as April will be giving an update on what you can expect to see in the next issue.

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.

September 27th
Chicken Pie Supper. North Danville Baptist Church Servings 5:30 pm., 6:30 pm.; reservations required and take-outs available Call 802-684-2046.

EVERY SUNDAY

BETHANY CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICES
9:00 AM "the church set apart on the hill"
Mt. Moosilauke Highway, Pike, NH
Phone: jo anne at 603-787-6658

Every Monday: 8:00-10:00 Continental Breakfast, 9:30 Chair Yoga, 10:30 Chair volleyball, 1:00 Drums Alive, 2:00 Tai-Chi via Zoom
Other Mondays: 8/11 @ 10:30 Candy Bar Bingo

2nd Wednesday monthly

NEKCA Mobile Food Shelf,
Groton Free Public Library

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

WEEKLY EVENTS AT:

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

CLIFFORD MEMORIAL BUILDING

South Court Street, Woodsville

Every Thursday: 9:30 Bone Builders, 10:30 Bean Bag Toss, 1:00 Food Pantry,

PICKLEBALL

Tuesday & Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM
Saturday mornings at 9:00-10:30 AM

Every Friday: 9:30 Chair yoga, 11:00 Cribbage, 12:00 Tai-Chi via Zoom, 12:30 Mahjong, 1:00 Popcorn & Movie

LINE DANCING every Wednesday evening
6:00 - 7:00 PM

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Fall Programs

Thursday 1:30pm-3:00pm at Catamount Arts in St. Johnsbury

ANTIQUÉ STROLLERS WALKING PROGRAM

Monday – Friday from 11:00-12:30
Clifford Building, North Haverhill

October 2 History of the American Acoustic Guitar
October 9 Maple Sugaring: tradition, Innovation, and the Future of Sweetness

Program Descriptions and Registration at learn.UVM.edu/olli/stj

FOLK MUSIC JAM - 1st and 3rd Saturdays at
10am, Pope Library (Community Center) in
Danville, VT.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED -- Use the above website or call 802 656-8407

"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.

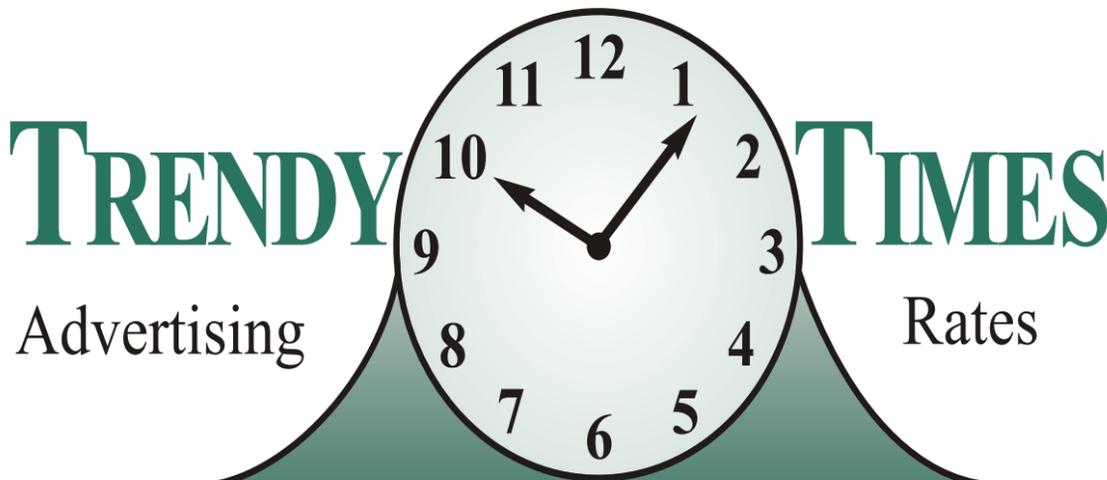
Upcoming Events

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.
September 7
October 5
November 2
December 7

Bethany Church of Pike, NH
Full Pancake Breakfast
Sept. 20th
8:00 a.m.

VFW Hall, route 116, No. Haverhill



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Rates

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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

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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

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\$20.00 for 5 issues

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT SQUAM LAKES NATU- RAL SCIENCE CENTER Species Spotlight

River Otters, September 27-28

- Black Bears, October 4-5

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., All Ages

Get to know the animals at the Science Center as we highlight a different species each weekend. Engage with staff naturalists and volunteer docents to discover the circumstance that led to each animal being in our care, learn about the enrichment of the day provided for the animals, and hear about actions you can take to help wildlife and their habitats. Special discounts for the highlighted species at the Howling Coyote gift shop. Snap a photo of that species and Tag it and Follow us on Instagram (@nhnature) or Facebook (@nhwildlife), for a chance to win a "Behind the Scenes Tour" for up to four people!

Cost: Included with trail admission. Last admission is 3:30 p.m.

Image: Cardigan, White-tailed Deer at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center

Donor and Member Appreciation Day

October 4, 2025, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., All Ages

Join us as we celebrate you—our valued donors and members—at a special day filled with fun, community, and gratitude at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center.

Enjoy:

- 10:00 - 12:30pm Fresh apple cider donuts and cider, or until they are gone!
- 11:00- 1:00pm A hands-on kids' art project: create your own pinecone bird seed feeder
- Docent-led animal encounters and nature talks
- Exclusive member discounts in the Howling Coyote Gift Shop
- Plus, more family-friendly activities in the works!

This is our way of saying thank you for your support in helping us share the wonders of New Hampshire's natural world.

Pre-registration required at www.nhnature.org or by emailing or calling Nicole Verspyck at nicole.verspyck@nhnature.org or 603-968-7194 x 124. Last trail admission is 3:30 pm

Image: Visitors learning about raptors from a naturalist at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center

Owl-O-Ween

Saturday, October 25, 2025

9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Join us for Owl-O-Ween to celebrate all things owl! Meet live owls at Up Close to Animals presentations throughout the day. See the animals along the live animal exhibit trail enjoying a variety of pumpkin treats. Come in your favorite costume. Children will receive a bag of Halloween treats to take home at the end of their visit. This special day is for all ages.

Owl-O-Ween is generously sponsored by Service Credit Union and Tootsie Roll Industries.

Cost: All Owl-O-Ween activities are Included with trail admission. Last trail admission is 3:30pm.

Tickets are available online or can be purchased on-site when you arrive.

Image: Red Fox enjoying her pumpkin for Owl-O-Ween

New Hampshire Day

Sunday, October 26, 2025

9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Get Your Tickets for NH Day! It's time for our Annual Fall New Hampshire Day, on October 26th, a special day for New Hampshire residents to visit the live animal exhibit trail for only \$8 admission, made possible by our generous sponsors: Dead River Company, Franklin Savings Bank, Meredith Landing Real Estate, and New Hampshire Electric Cooperative Foundation. NHEC members admit free with a recent bill shown at the admissions window.

Get more details and your reserve your tickets on our website! Tickets are limited so don't wait!

<https://nhnature.org/programs/calendar.php>

Image: Visitors admire the Bobcat at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center

Animal Trail Highlights (Included with trail admission):

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For event details, registrations, and tickets, visit nhnature.org.



SQUAM LAKES NATURAL SCIENCE WELCOMES NEW ADDITIONS AND BIDS A SAD FAREWELL

Holderness, NH — Squam Lakes Natural Science Center welcomed three new animals to its collection recently. A one-year old female Bald Eagle arrived in Holderness at the end of July and after completing its 30 days of quarantine and testing, joined a second female eagle on exhibit on September 12. This new eagle came from the Teton Raptor Center near Jackson, Wyoming. Their skilled staff attempted to rehabilitate it, but found that it was unable to fly properly and could not be released back to the wild.

"In keeping with the Science Center's geographic-origin-focused naming protocol, this new eagle is called Jackson," said Iain MacLeod, Executive Director at the Science Center. "The other eagle (named Cody) arrived at the Science Center in 2013 having been found in 2012 near Cody, Wyoming, as a young eagle with severe mercury poisoning causing neurological difficulties and the inability to sustain flight." MacLeod added.

Last week, a Broad-winged Hawk that was found injured in Kalamazoo, Michigan was introduced to another Broad-winged Hawk that has been with the center since 2008. That older hawk had been rescued after colliding with a window in Miami, Florida.

NH Fish and Game recently brought a White-tailed Deer to the Science Center. This deer had become tame after being fed by well-meaning residents in a NH neighborhood. "Once habituated like this, deer typically become dependent on humans which makes it impossible for them to survive in the wild," said MacLeod. This female deer (named Pemigewasset) immediately settled into her new surroundings. She joins a second female deer which arrived at the Science Center in 2018. She too had been fed as a youngster and became habituated. On September 9, the Science Center staff bid a very sad farewell to their 26-year old female Black Bear named Salem. She was born in captivity in 1999 at a facility in Salem, Illinois and was transferred to the Science Center in 2001 from Clark's Trading Post in Lincoln, NH. As a captive-born bear, Salem never learned the necessary survival skills to live in the wild, but lived a long and happy life at the Science Center as a true ambassador for her species.

Over the last couple of years, she had been showing signs of age-related mobility issues and had been carefully monitored by the staff and veterinarians. Her health deteriorated in the last weeks, and after she failed to respond to various new medications she was euthanized. "Her last day was filled with all her favorite treats and snacks before she went peacefully to sleep," said MacLeod.

"It's always a sad day when any of our animals die, but losing this very special old bear was particularly hard on our animal care staff and veterinarians who have cared for her throughout her 24 years here," said MacLeod.

The Science Center still has a young male Black Bear, named Randolph. He was found orphaned at approximately 12 weeks old in Randolph County, North Carolina. When taken in by rehabilitators he was dehydrated, underweight, and covered in ticks. As an orphan, Randolph missed essential survival and socialization lessons from his mother. He was deemed non-releasable after becoming habituated to humans due to the level of care he required. He arrived at the Science Center at eight months old in October 2022.

Visit nhnature.org to learn more and get tickets to visit our animals. The Science Center is open daily through November 1st.





OBITUARY:
*Kathryn
Mary
Mabey, ,*

Kathryn Mary Mabey, 64, died suddenly on September 9th, 2025, after being hit while riding her bicycle. Born March 23, 1961, in Framingham, MA. to Kenneth Thomas and Jacqueline (Houghton) Thomas. Kathryn grew up and attended school in Sherborn, MA.

Kathryn devoted her life to being a stay-at-home mom and wife. Caring for her family was of utmost importance to her. Prior to moving to Vermont, Kathryn lived in Douglas, MA. Kathryn thrived on caring for others and cherished her job at Whitcomb House assisted living facility. Kathryn and her husband had a love for Vermont where they built their retirement home in Newbury in 2014. Kathryn was previously employed at World Cup Supply in Bradford VT as a bookkeeper and enjoyed her most recent employment at Newbury Village Recycle.

Kathryn enjoyed hiking, boating, biking, kayaking, snowmobiling, spending time at the beach, baking, gardening and had a love for animals. Most of all she loved spending time with her family. Kathryn was a happy, loving soul that always had a kind and bubbly greeting for everyone. Kathryn was taken far too soon and had so much more life to live. Kathryn was predeceased by her father Kenneth Thomas.

Kathryn is survived by her husband of 44 years

Charlie Mabey; her children, Meredith (Mabey) Bagdis and spouse Adam Bagdis, and Charles Mabey, both of Douglas, MA; her grandchildren, Mckenzie Mabey and Emma Lyons Mabey of Douglas, MA; her mother, Jacqueline Thomas of North Haverhill, NH; her sisters, Candice (Thomas) Hulyk of Milford, MA, and Jackie Ann (Thomas) Ketchen and significant other Bill Yehle of Lee, MA; her half-sister, Cindi Clayton of Beaverton, OR; her brothers, James Thomas and wife Heidi of Wareham, MA, and Shawn Thomas and wife Cheryl of Scituate, MA; her sisters-in-law, Wendy (Mabey) Mesite and husband Joeseeph Mesite of Oxford, MA; and Diana (Mabey) Horan and husband Chris of Clermont, FL; her brothers-in-law, Tom Mabey and wife Rhonda of Hartford, VT, and Doug Mabey and his wife Lynn of Live Oak, FL; and also by several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Services will be held privately. Donations can be sent to the ASPCA- Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 96929, Washington, DC 20090-6929 in Kathryn's memory.

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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LETTERS

(and even some real words)

From The Editor

Spahr's character assassination of Nick De Mayo To the Editor,

The character assassination of me by Terry Spahr (D), Hanover re: the rebuild of another Grafton County Courthouse in the U/L (9/15/25) is a partisan, political hit job!

Due to surgery, I was unable to attend these vital meetings in person. Online was my only suitable option.

First, Spahr attended none of these weekly meetings. I would have seen his initials on the screen. Alas! Notta! He must have been hiding under a rock like a snake. I attended Grafton County Commissioners' Meetings for a year and a half, religiously every Tuesday morning, and was cut-off during the Mcleod Black-Out when the Chairwoman arbitrarily and unilaterally ended, cut-off, eliminated virtual, on-line, ZOOM participation by Grafton County residents from April 22, 2025 until August 12, 2025. The other 2 Commissioners were aghast! A lengthy debate ensued among the 3! Incidentally, by NH RSA 91-A, all meeting participants have 3-minutes of comments. The Commissioners have

Nick,

I have lived in Haverhill most of my life and certainly remember going into the old courthouse in Woodsville. I also remember the big addition to the Grafton County Nursing Home, the new courthouse and the new jail. Progress can sometimes be marked by new structures.

As I have noted before, we the taxpayers do not get a vote as to whether or not this courthouse gets built. Our State Representatives make up the delegation that will say yes or no. The Commissioners also do not get a vote. They only get to recommend. With that said I do hope, and must trust, that our reps, as well as the commissioners, have done their best to come up with the most efficient plan, both money wise and usability wise, to cure the shortfalls of the current courthouse.

In regards to the commissioner meetings, I applaud your efforts to have them opened back up to the public as apparently NH state law requires. Doing any public business behind closed doors is not the best look for any organization.

Gary Scruton, Editor

rigged the system (like in Socialist-Communist countries!) to allow only public comment, no questions! I lost approximately 45-minutes of "public comments"! I want them back!

All, but one or 2 Courthouse Building Committee Meetings, were non-public!

No cost estimates have been addressed by the Commissioners for other less costly remediation. The Commissioners are recommending a \$72.3 Million rebuild of the current 52-year-old Grafton County Courthouse. Cost of rebuild/bond/interest over 25-years!

I taught in New England's largest Middle school in RI with 1,600 students at one time, built when Custer held his Last Stand and closed in 2004! We made do with what we had to keep costs down for the taxpayers. many elderly and on fixed incomes. Kinda like here in Grafton County! Residents/taxpayers should tell the Delegates to vote, "NO !" on this issue. We have no vote, only "petition."

"Honorable" is not a title I would use in front of your name, Mr. Spahr!

Nick De Mayo,
Sugar Hill, NH

OP ED

VT DOESN'T PASS THE COMMON SENSE TEST

"To Build (a new Grafton County courthouse) or Not to Build.....that is The Question....."

However, The Question was never presented to the people/taxpayers of Grafton county who are expected to foot

the bill for this project. Nor was it ever conveyed to the people of Grafton County through NH State Representatives,

or given adequate media coverage. It was merely "assumed"

that We the People of Grafton County would accept a

decision made exclusively by the Grafton County

Commissioners, and the delegates who have privy of voting

for this project. In fact it appears to have been a closed decision without the Voice of the People to assess the necessity of a new building. It is questionable why necessary

repairs were not done throughout the 52 years this building

has been in operation. Transparency appears not to be a strong point regarding Commissioners' Meetings where this topic was discussed.

And when certain members of the community decided to join the meeting on Zoom and pose serious questions regarding

the building of a new courthouse, the Zoom Meetings were conveniently shut down. Transparency seems to be somewhat

foggy at this level of NH government. The Zoom Meetings have been restored, but it seems the executive decisions have already been made without the Consent of the Governed.

Most people are not aware that there is a 105 page document entitled "The Danson Report of 2021" in which all aspects of the present Grafton County Courthouse were evaluated. It is available on-

line for public viewing. It was determined in 2021 that to make all of the changes and repairs

would cost \$36+ million, but to rebuild the courthouse would

cost \$34+ million. However, four years have passed and the

prices have risen, and what was once \$34+ million is now \$47.3 million, which is just the replacement cost. The actual cost to homeowner's (those who own property and pay property taxes in Grafton County) really amounts to \$72.3

Million (rebuild/principal/interest) at 4.5% over 25 years!).

The County Administrator quoted that figure in the August 26, 2025 Meeting.

Some important points are worth noting:

1) Some repairs need to be made as a new elevator is needed

as the necessary parts to repair the old elevator are not available.

2) A sprinkler system is lacking on one of the three floors and

needs to be installed. 3) Insulation is a problem as there is 12,000 square feet of brick that has no insulation, and affects the heating cost. These are real issues and they should be addressed.

In analyzing the other remediations they amount to adding

waiting rooms to different departments, adding bathrooms, and a gym for personnel so they can stay healthy.

It should also be noted that there are only two county offices in the Grafton County Courthouse: the county attorney's office, and the sheriff's office. All other space is

occupied by NH State officials who pay rent to the county.

So in essence are we building a new county courthouse to

house the state officials? It would be suggested to repair the essential problems, and

perhaps do some reorganization of how space is used within

the various offices. This would greatly lessen the tax burden

for the people of Grafton County. If the new Grafton

County Courthouse Project goes through, which it appears to be

doing without any Consent of the Governed, it would raise each person's county property tax by 9.4%/year.

If this is of any concern or importance to You as taxpayers you might consider reading the "Danson Report of 2021" and

reach your own conclusions You may also consider getting in

contact with your NH state representative and voice your concerns.

It appears that as we are near to celebrating our 250th Anniversary from British tyranny from King George in 1776,

this whole courthouse scenario is similar to how a detective

would follow clues to a case, only one conclusion is

evident.....Tyranny! Why would the Grafton County Commissioners be exploring the Courthouse Bonding Process

before any conclusive decision has been made by the Executive Committee, and continue on to the next step involving the Full Delegation has not yet occurred, unless this

whole process is "a done deal" already?

"Taxation without representation is Tyranny."

Patrick Henry Prior to moving to NH in 2014, I lived in northeastern Pennsylvania, seven miles north of Scranton and I was part of

Lackawanna County. The Lackawanna County Courthouse

was built in 1894 and is still in use today. Lackawanna

County serves a population of 215,000 people. Compare that

with the present Grafton County Courthouse that was built in the early 1970's, and is only 52 years young, and services a

population of 91,000+ people and is no longer considered operable.....It Doesn't Pass

the Common Sense Test.

Janice A. Novak
Easton, NH

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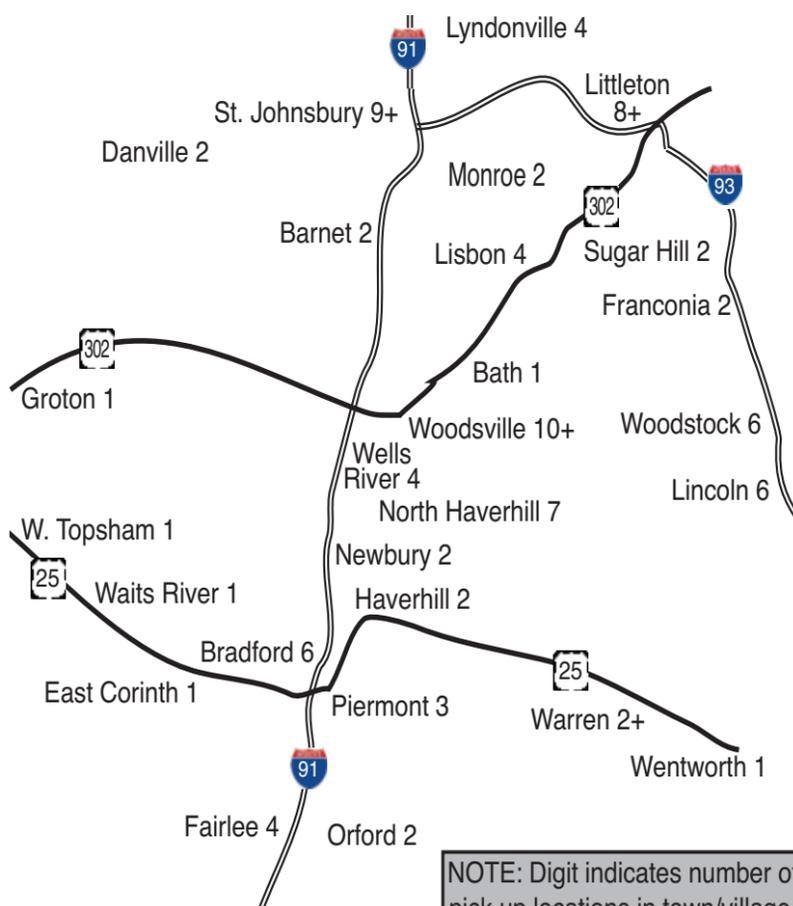
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All ages can enjoy

West Newbury Hall
Saturday, Sept. 27
7:30 to 10:00 pm
and the last Saturday
each following month.

Bring refreshments if you can
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Donations accepted

Haverhill Library Association

The Board of Trustees of the Haverhill Library Association has named Hugh Underhill as the posthumous recipient of the Library's Vesta Smith Award for Exemplary Volunteer Service. The award was presented to his wife, Pat Underhill, and his family at the memorial service held at their home in the hills above Haverhill Corner.

Hugh, who passed away last month, was a steadfast supporter of the Haverhill Library and loved our little library with all his heart. A man of great intelligence and curiosity, he checked out more books than anyone else—exploring every subject from history, nature, biographies to fiction. In addition to his service as a valued trustee, Hugh cared for our library grounds and garden with quiet devotion. He provided beautiful flower baskets and seasonal decorations for our entrance, always making our library a welcoming place for all.

Hugh never sought recognition for his work, but his kindness, dedication, and humble spirit touched everyone who knew him. Hugh's legacy will live on in the beauty of our library grounds, in the books he loved, and in the community he helped nurture.

The Vesta Smith Award plaque engraved with Hugh's name and those of previous awardees, will hang in perpetuity at the library, but a framed certificate of the award was given to the family.

The Vesta Smith Award for Exemplary Volunteer Service was instituted by this association in 2020 when Vesta retired from our board after more than 30 years. The award recognizes the essential role of volunteers in our community, especially long term service sustaining local institutions.



Susan (Sue, Susie) M. Spooner, age 76, of North America, Europe, and South Ryegate, passed away peacefully surrounded by family at the Miller McClure Respite House in Colchester on September 6, 2025. Sue was born on November 12th, 1948, in Woodsville, NH. She was a curious mind, often found solving crossword puzzles, word searches, sudoku, quizzes, or her favorite Jeopardy. A lifelong fan of the Boston Celtics, she also fondly remembered her own days playing basketball in high school. Known for the love of her life, Rocky Spooner, on September 15th, 1967. Together they shared nearly 54 years of marriage, living in Barre, Newbury, and South Ryegate, VT.

OBITUARY Susan (Sue, Susie) M. Spooner,

Sue and Rocky built a life full of love, adventure, and cherished memories. Her presence, humor, and love will be greatly missed.

Sue also predeceased her step-grandson, Rico of Berlin, and her beloved Dalmatian, Max.

She leaves behind her sons, Jeff Spooner and Tim Spooner, and her wife Jen (Rico), as well as her adored grandchildren, Ava Spooner and Olivia Spooner of Essex, VT, and Marisa Spooner of North, NH.

She is survived by her brother Bill Plummer (Sharon) of Phoenix, AZ, and her sister Eleanor (David) Placey of Newbury, VT. Sue is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and countless friends who brought joy to her life.

There will be no formal services. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to McClure Miller Respite House, 1110 Prim Road, Colchester, VT 05446, or to her favorite charity, Wells River Family Health.

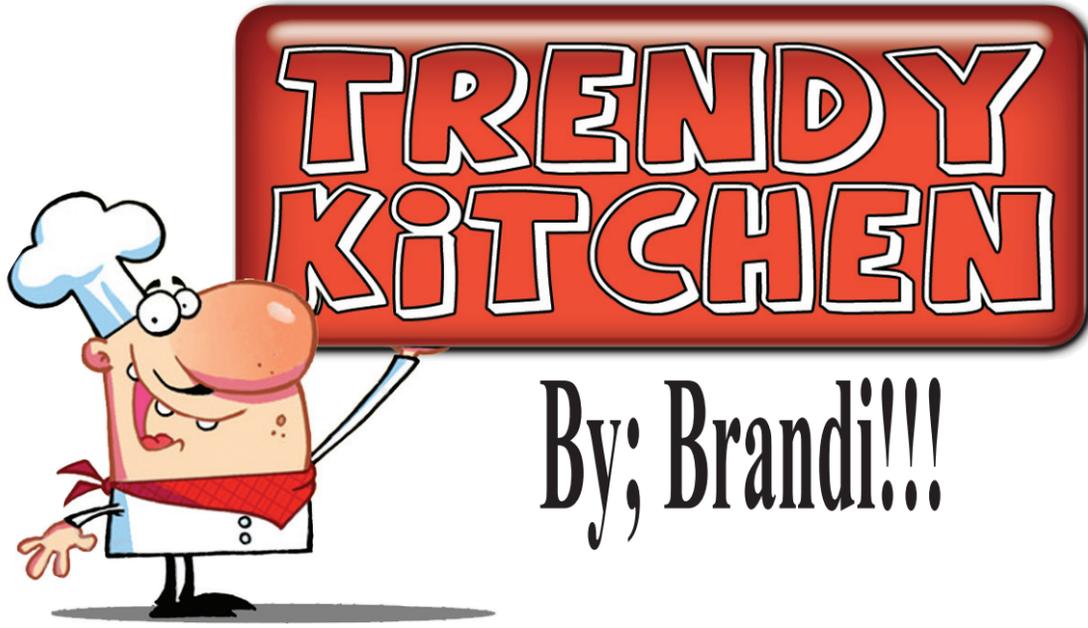
Sue was a lifelong fan of the Boston Celtics, and graduated from Newbury High School. She went on to Castleton State College until she met and then married Rocky Spooner, on September 15th, 1967. Together they shared nearly 54 years of marriage, living in Barre, Newbury, and South Ryegate, VT.

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By: Brandi!!!



🔥 Shrimp on the Barbie.

A fiery favorite with Aussie flair and backyard soul.

Let's be real — there's just something magical about shrimp hitting a hot grill. The sizzle, the sear, that smoky kiss of char. If you're anything like me, grilling isn't just a summer event — it's a way of life. Rain, snow, or mosquito-plagued July, the barbie's getting fired up.

And when you want flavor that cooks up fast and looks fancy without the fuss? Shrimp on the barbie is your go-to.

🛒 Ingredients

(Serves 4, or 2 hungry folks who know better)

- 1½ lbs large shrimp, peeled &

deveined (tails on or off — your call)

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp lemon juice (fresh is best)
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1½ tsp smoked paprika
- 1 tsp chili flakes (optional, but encouraged)
- 1 tbsp fresh parsley or cilantro, chopped
- Salt & pepper, to taste

💡 **Optional marinade boost:** Add a splash of Worcestershire or a teaspoon of Dijon mustard for extra depth.

🔧 Equipment

- Metal or soaked bamboo skewers
- Grill (gas, charcoal, or even stovetop grill pan)
- Tongs & good vibes

🧴 **Marinade & Prep**
1. In a medium

bowl, mix olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, paprika, chili flakes, salt, and pepper.

2. Toss in the shrimp and stir to coat. Let them marinate for at least 15 minutes (up to 1 hour in the fridge).

3. Thread shrimp onto skewers, keeping them snug but not squished.

🔥 Grilling Time

1. Preheat your grill to medium-high. You want it hot enough to sear, but not scorch.

2. Lay the shrimp skewers on the grates and cook for 2-3 minutes per side, just until they turn pink and get those grill marks.

3. Remove, sprinkle with fresh herbs, and hit them with a squeeze of lemon.

👤 **Don't walk away** — shrimp

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cook fast. Overcooked shrimp are basically rubber bands with seasoning.

🍷 Serving Ideas

- Serve over grilled corn, rice, or a light arugula salad.
- Brush with garlic butter for bonus flavor.
- Want to go full Aussie? Add grilled pineapple slices and a cold beer.

📝 Brandi's Notes

- I keep a bag of frozen shrimp on hand at all times. They defrost

quick and grill even quicker — the ultimate last-minute meal.

- Don't toss the shells if you peel them yourself. Toss them in a pot with some onion and bay leaf for a quick seafood broth later.
- Feel free to swap shrimp with scallops, chunks of salmon, or even tofu for a vegetarian twist. It's about the flavor and the fire.

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