

A FREE PUBLICATION

Next Issue: Tuesday, October 21
Deadline: Thursday, October 16

TRENDY TIMES



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

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

October 07, 2025 VOLUME 16, NUMBER 28

Old Church Theater

This fall, Old Church Theater is going to try something new. We have chosen three Old Time Radio Shows—a Western, a Suspense/Mystery, and a Comedy. We will need 6-7 actors (ages 15 and up) for each of these radio shows. You may audition for one, two or all three shows! We will have only 8 rehearsals, and the performances will be on November 7th, 8th and 9th. The best thing about the radio shows is you won't have to memorize your lines, We are also collecting items to use for sound effects for our radio shows. Our Christmas Show this year will be "A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas." For this play, we will need Pa Ingalls, Ma Ingalls, Laura, Mary, and Carrie Ingalls, Johnny Steadman and Mrs. Starr. Cast members should be 10 years old and older. Mrs. Starr is in her 40s. Rehearsals will be held 3-4 times per week beginning on October 27th, and we will perform on December 5th, 6th and 7th, and 12th 13th and 14th. Cast members will be asked to have at least Act One memorized by our first rehearsal., You may audition for the Radio Shows and for A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas!

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TRENDY Dining Guide



THE ONLY ONE By Maggie Anderson

Recently, I was reading a piece about gardening at Antwerp's Royal Academy of Fine Arts.

There was some mention of eradication of the overabundance of invasive species. That seems to be the mindset of ecologists all over the world these days.

I wonder what the Darwinians' prevailing take on the topic is right now.

I ask you, if evolution is survival of the fittest, why does it matter which species gains a solid foothold, or how in fact they ended up putting down roots in unfamiliar ground to begin with?

The very fact that they fitted themselves in should count for something. Shouldn't it?

And why is overabundance such an issue, one that has raged for years?

The Bison ruled the plains, millions of them roamed free until we hunted them for sport, nearly to extinction.

Now they are protected, as if they are more important for their esthetic value than they ever were for the peoples who depended on them for their very lives the centuries prior.

Perhaps it is the scarcity, or the rarity, that ups the perceived value of one species over another.

Take the graceful, majestic Canada Goose. Reviled for the noise they make and the mess they leave in their wake.

Ask yourself how you'll explain to your great grandchildren how there used to be millions of them, great migrations, squawking in the sunset, gawking for a pond, a pool, a lake, or a wetland to settle into before night fell and the waters stilled as their communication calmed.

Imagine how treasured they will have become, the nostalgia they will evoke when the only way to encounter one is in a book, locked up in a zoo - or even worse - stuffed as the last of the Do-dos, only to be set in a glass case in a museum of antiquities.

Even a four-leaf clover is prized above all. It takes precedence over the lush emerald carpet of its leaf-challenged brethren.

Perhaps Tigger was right after all.



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OBITUARY:
Michael Francis Furno,

Bear Ridge Speedway.

He had a friend, Mike Green, who introduced him to the Upper Valley area in 1992. Mike instantly fell in love with the area, and moved his family here within a week. After being introduced to Mr. C.V. (Butch) Elms, Mike made lifelong friends and started a lifetime career at Bear Ridge Speedway. First running the pizza trailer, then moving on to the flagman position, later announcing in Victory Lane. You could find Mike at Bear Ridge every Saturday during the racing season, for 30 years! Mike was put into the Bear Ridge Hall of Fame in 2023.

Mike's calm, caring and loving presence made it easy for children and animals to trust him. He had many animal companions

and a multitude of children, and family friends he parented in his lifetime.

He is survived by his wife Wendy Clark; and his children, Michelle Spadea (Jeff), Valerie Lund (Tucker Sweet), Karen Cornell, Thomas Lund, Tonya Gadwah (Mikey), Madeline Gadwah, godson Colby Martin, and goddaughters Katelyn Kibbe and Jennifer Josselein. Mike was blessed with 11 grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews who he loved dearly. His surviving brothers are David Furno (Patti), John Furno (Christine), and his sisters Tina Egan (Tim) and Tammy Murray (Christopher).

Mike was predeceased by his father Anthony Furno in 1980, and his mother Lucille Furno in 1988; his sibling Joseph "Barney" on July 30, 2008, Carl on April 27, 2012, Cindy on December 30, 2014, and Robin on November 20, 2019.

Michael Francis Furno, 70, of North Haverhill, NH, passed away at Grafton County Nursing Home on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, after his battle with dementia. Mike was born on September 1, 1955, in Northbridge, MA, to Anthony and Lucille (Chaput) Furno.

Mike attended school in the Douglas school system and ended at the Blackstone Valley Technical School in Upton. He started his working career as a mechanic, but expanded his career track to include car salesman, long haul trucker in which he was able to go to 48 of the 50 states, a restaurant owner (Mr. Mike's Pizza), and then as an oil and gas technician. However, his favorite "job" was helping family and friends build and race at area tracks, first at Thompson Raceway and concluding at

Milestone Moment at Woodsville High School



Woodsville High School proudly congratulates Eli Vasconcelos for reaching an incredible achievement in soccer – 100 career points, earned with an impressive 50 goals and 50 assists. This accomplishment highlights not only Eli's athletic talent, but also his dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

On this special day, Eli was recognized by Athletic Director Mrs. Taylor and Principal Mr. Coon, along with the entire student body, for his outstanding contribution to

WHS athletics.

"Eli's 100-point milestone is a testament to his hard work, determination, and commitment to the game," said Athletic Director Mrs. Taylor. "He's an incredible player, but even more importantly, a team-first leader who inspires those around him."

"This is a moment that reflects what it means to be a Woodsville Engineer," added Principal Mr. Coon. "We are so proud of Eli – not just for his skill on the field, but for the way he represents our school and community with pride."

Eli's success reminds us all that dedication, perseverance, and teamwork lead to great achievements. Congratulations, Eli

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OBITUARY

James "Jim" Cilley ,

James "Jim" Cilley of Groton, Vermont, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, September 25, 2025.

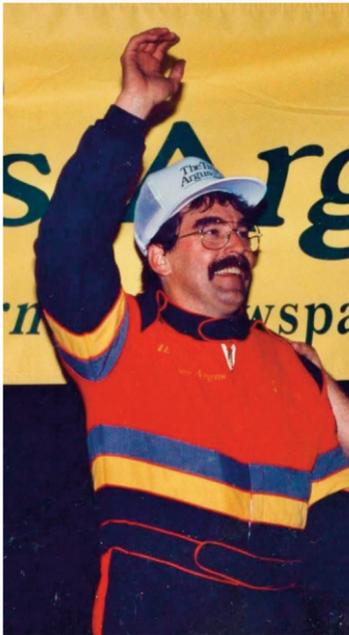
We want to remember the man he truly was, a beloved father, grandfather, fellow racer, and dear friend. He was a man with a huge heart, a humble personality, and a stubborn mind. And who taught us the value of learning from our mistakes. He was a prime example and role model on and off the track. His bond with his father, Ernie Cilley, was like no other. Jim's talent and passion for racing earned him the respect of fellow drivers and the admiration of fans who cheered him on from the stands. Fellow drivers remember "Jimmy" as a true short track legend and a great friend.

Many young fans can still remember the roaring sound as #68 got loaded on the trailer in town. Whether he was on the track or riding his bike

through town, he always greeted you with a smile, wave, and memorable conversation. His life was full of ups and downs, but his capacity for love and laughter remained constant. Though his road was not easy, his life's story reminds us to approach others with empathy and kindness.

Jim leaves behind his children, siblings, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren, and of course, his beloved friends and fans. Though he has taken his final lap, we hope his memory will inspire others to lend a helping hand to those who are struggling.

Ricker Funeral Home



& Cremation Care of Woodsville is assisting the family with arrangements.

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An Inspirational Conference for Everyone!



Debby Davis, international Bible teacher, author, singer, and missionary, Invited to Speak locally.

On Friday evening, October 10th, a conference sponsored by Acres of Hope, No. Haverhill, NH, Abundant Grace Fellowship of Newbury, VT, Trinity Church of the Nazarene, No. Haverhill, NH, and Bethany Church of Pike, NH, will kick off at the Trinity Nazarene Church located next to the Court House off route 10 in North Haverhill. Pastors Joe & Shelly Grabowski will lead a Praise & Worship time starting at 6:30 p.m. followed by guest speaker, Debby Davis. The theme of the conference this year is "Awake, Daughter of Zion!" An all-day conference on Saturday will commence at 9:00 a.m. with a light breakfast served at 8:00 a.m. and lunch at noon.

On Sunday, October 12th, Debby will be sharing at Bethany Church in Pike at the 9:00 a.m. worship service. For more info, please call Carol @ 603-787-6236.

Debby is a native of Western New York. She is the daughter of a pastor, attended Elim Bible Institute and, with her husband Fred, pastored in Pennsylvania for 15 years. Debby and Fred have been married since 1978 and have a son and daughter-in-law and one daughter. Currently they travel as missionaries throughout the USA, Canada, Africa and the Philippines. Debby is a singer, conference speaker and author. She is the author of several books, Suddenly, Keepers of Salt, Keepers of Salt Study Guide, The Only Way Out Is In, Peace, Poems To Live By-Dog Of Blue, Poems To Live By Any Old Bush, Creatures Of The Forest, The Storm Walker, and Because God Said So. You can find more information about Debby and Fred at Davission.org.

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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

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Baldwin Memorial Library, Wells River.

EVERY SUNDAY

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Clifford Building, North Haverhill

FOLK MUSIC JAM - Pope Library (Community Center)

121 Park Street, 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.

The Littleton Bluegrass Jam at Topic of the Town Restaurant, Littleton

Second and Third Sundays from 2-5pm.

Bring your stringed instrument and join in on the jam session! All are welcome. In October the jam will be on Sundays, October 12th and 19th.

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.

November 2

December 7

Horse Meadow Senior Center

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

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

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

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

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

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Fall Programs

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

October 9 Maple Sugaring: tradition, Innovation, and the Future of Sweetness

October 16 "The Chance of Ten Lifetimes:" Restoring Norte Dame de Paris

October 23 Trailblazers of the Kingdom: Building Community Health, and Prosperity One Mile at a Time

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

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

Saturday, October 11 – noon-4pm - Lisbon Area Historical Society Museum Open House of New Level, 9 Depot Street (brick building at top of hill), Lisbon, NH 603-838-2003 www.lisbonareahistory.org

Frank Vignola

Friday, October 17, 2025

Alumni Hall, Haverhill 7:30pm

OLD TIME MUSIC JAM - 3rd Saturdays OCTOBER thru MAY, 10am-Noon. "Back porch style", listeners welcome! Pope Memorial Library Community Center, 121 Park Street, Danville VT. If traveling conditions are questionable, call to confirm. 802-684-2256 or 802-535-6069

St. Johnsbury Players

Event: Amaterurs by Tom Griffen

Date: 10/12/2025@ 3 pm. 10/11/2025@ 7:30 PM 10/10/2025@7:30 PM. 10/9/2025@ 7:30 PM

Location: 257 Western Ave St Johnsbury, VT

Bethany Church of Pike, NH

Event: Inspirational Conference w/ Debby Davis

Date: Oct. 11

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Trinity Nazarene Church, No. Haverhill

Community Yard Sale - Mountain Lakes Lodge, 73 Lodge Lane, Haverhill, NH. 10/11/25 - 8 - 3PM. ML residents: Bring your own table(s) and let's clean up at the end.

Third Act Orange East (Newbury)

No Kings II Rally October 18 12:30-2:00

Newbury Common, Rt. 5, Newbury VT



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Rugged CrossLink 3 construction, moulded polyethylene seats, ash carry yoke and thwart. Red 17 foot canoe is ideal for local lakes, rivers and remote whitewater. Good condition asking \$675. Call 603-443-3166

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Saturday, October 11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Fall Festival, Willing Workers , Sugar Hill Meetinghouse , 1448 Route 117, Sugar Hill, NH
Crafts, home baked goods, lunch 11-1, soups to go, Grandma's attic thrift. WW is a 501-C who allocate funds to local services benefiting the greater community.

LETTERS

(and even some real words)

From The Editor

To the Editor:

I urge users of the Wells River Water System to have a back up plan for water this winter. At the September 18th Trustee's meeting I asked, the trustees if they were confident, they would be able to supply water to Wells River water users this winter; the trustees responded, "they hoped so". That didn't inspire confidence to me. I asked the same question at the October 2nd meeting and the response was "they are not sure". The situation has gone from bad to worse. The oil spill that caused this crisis happened in January 2025, when the connection between two oil tanks broke when the wooden floor the tanks were on collapsed. The building, where the tanks were, is the Baldwin Block commonly known as the Post Office Building and is one of five buildings Evernorth fka Housing Vermont owns in Wells River.

Instead of doing what is best for Wells River and listening to their own water department employees the trustees have followed in lockstep what Evernorth's attorneys want. The Village is no closer to having a permanent solution then they were on the day after the spill. They stopped using the village well not because the State told them to, not because the well was contaminated but because it was what Evernorth's insurance company wanted. The State has been conspicuously absent in the past 10 months. The State has jurisdiction over public drinking water supplies. Evernorth and the State want to wash their hands of the whole thing and

richard,

I will always be on the side of people being informed about what their elected officials are doing. Attending meetings can be difficult for many, but even a few in attendance let's the elected body know that there are many who are concerned.

Regarding your comments about Woodsville water, I have lived in Woodsville for many years now and have never had an issue with the water. Sure it may not be "spring" water, but it most certainly passes all the tests required by the state, and is very much drinkable.

Gary Scruton, Editor

act like this is what they are going to do when the 2 million dollars is spent.

Instead of using the village water supply that has not shown any contamination, the village is trucking water from Woodsville whose water comes from the mouth of the Ammonoosuc river with backflow of the Connecticut River. I haven't heard one person say the water tastes good and I know people who do not drink the water coming through their faucets now. Right now, the insurance company is paying for the hauling.

Somehow the 2-million-dollar insurance settlement has become a cap that Evernorth will spend and then the village will be on their own. I hope the Village's attorney is on speed dial.

Anyone who uses village water, meaning rate payers, business owners, renters, patrons of Wells River' businesses, people who work in Wells River, I would urge to attend the trustee's meetings. They are held on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 4PM at the Village offices in the village garage on Creamery Street. Meeting agendas and special meetings should be posted in 4 places in the village including the village board on the Masonic building, where Copies and More is located and the village website.

Remember the play written by Woody Allen, "Don't Drink the Water". And attend trustees' meetings and demand answers. Your health might depend on it.

Richard M Roderick
Wells River, Vermont

To the Editor,

A recent LTE to the Trendy Times (September 23, 2025) contained misleading "information" about proposed changes to the Grafton County courthouse.

In discussing the proposed Courthouse construction, the writer stated that "No cost estimates have been addressed by the Commissioners for other less costly remediation." In fact, a comprehensive study was conducted in 2021 to examine and compare the options of renovation of the existing courthouse vs. new construction (the study, by the way, was conducted with Federal funds and did not impact the taxpayers). The report concludes with financial estimates of the cost of renovation vs. new construction. The report also details the reasons why doing nothing with the existing courthouse is, in the opinion of the engineers that performed the study, an unacceptable approach.

The full report is available on the Grafton County

website. The following excerpt is taken from the Executive Summary of that report.

"In summary, there are several factors that suggest that a new facility (Option 2) would be the most beneficial approach for the county. Those factors are addressed in detail in this report and include reduced expense for renovation, no loss of revenue from moving tenants, no lease expense, half the moving expense and a more state-of-the-art facility constructed in a more efficient configuration. Option 1, on the other hand, [renovation] requires multiple moves, loss of lease revenue [from the State of New Hampshire] with potential long term loss of tenants, additional expense related to renovating masonry interior, and the issues associated with a difficult configuration of space."

If the writer is alluding to the fact that there has been no update of the financial estimates since 2021, I'd point out that Federal funds are no longer available for

a new study and the taxpayers would have to shoulder the cost of a duplicate study of a building that has the same problems now that it had in 2021. It is also reasonable to assume that the cost of materials and labor have increased at similar rates for new construction vs. renovation, and a repeat study would yield the same conclusions.

The decision on whether to build a new courthouse will be a difficult one for the Grafton County Delegation, and I trust the Delegation members from both parties to examine all aspects of the issue. At the same time, I suggest that members of the public rely on factual data, and not LTE's or social media when they contact their legislators. Read the online report, read the Commissioner minutes, and go to the public meetings on the courthouse when they are scheduled.

Linda D. Lauer
Bath, NH

Linda,

Thank you for the additional information regarding the possible construction of a new Grafton County courthouse. You have also reminded readers about one of the points that have been written here before. The public does not vote on this project, just our elected state representatives.

One other item I have heard is the projected cost of the courthouse, though I have seen two different prices. One is around \$42 million, the other around \$70 million. I believe the first is the actual cost while the second is the total cost with in-

terest included over the life of the bond.

The one price I have not seen is just how does this affect our property tax bill? How much will it raise our taxes? Of course the cost is spread throughout the entire Grafton County tax base, and it will continue to be on our tax bills for about 20 years.

As you do, I will also encourage voters to attend a meeting, get the facts, and let your local representative know your thoughts. It might be their decision and vote, but they can be influenced by all of us taxpayers.

Gary Scruton, Editor

DI/Karaoke
Weddings
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