

# PITTSFIELD POST

A FREE WEEKLY PRODUCTION BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Sponsored by Stanley and Sheila O'Bailey and the Ides of March!

March 17, 2021

"Things turn out for the best for those who make the best of the way things turn out." - *Dear Abby*



## The Island Flag

As you drive or walk into or out of Pittsfield on Barnstead Road, you may easily see the American flag on a small island in the Suncook River. Maybe you ask yourself, "Who placed the flag in that spot, and why there?"

Mrs. Elkin's little boy, Royce Elkins grew up and lived on Tilton Hill Road, just a stone's throw from the Suncook River. Royce would march with fellow Legionnaires to the Barnstead Road bridge to shoot off a volley of rifle shots in honor of our fallen soldiers on Memorial and Veterans' Day.

In the early eighties, Royce and his associate, Felix Jenisch, decided they would put a flagpole on the island. They had talked about doing this after each parade and now, years later, they were ready. They took shovels, a pick, and a crowbar in Royce's little boat, and down the river to the island they went. They dug a hole 3 feet deep and about 18

inches wide, and then returned to Royce's house for liquid refreshment and future plans. On the next day they took a steel pipe 6 feet long and 4 inches wide and a couple bags of Portland Cement, and off to the island they went in the little aluminum boat. They placed the pipe in the hole and mixed the cement with sand from the nearby sandbar. Tired and hot, they went back to Royce's house for liquid refreshment, decided on the size and type of tree to use as a flagpole, and pondered where they could harvest a spruce tree.

Royce worked the post office crowd and Felix worked the liquor store patrons. Mr. McAnney of Chichester came forward and offered a spruce tree from his Webster Mills property. They cut and limbed the tree and tied it to Royce's pickup truck. The tree was 24 feet long, and I'm sure there was a red flag hanging from the butt end. Back in Royce's garage of invention, they used a drawshave to peel the bark from the tree. They cut 2 feet off the butt so the base diameter was 3.5 inches, to fit into the 4-inch pipe. After some liquid refreshment, Felix and Royce decided to meet in 2 weeks to paint the pole and install the hardware.

Several days after the painting, they went to the river behind Royce's garage and tried to put the pole in the small boat. After losing the pole in the river, they decided to take it in the pickup down to Drake Field. They launched the pole towards the island and went back home for the boat. These 2 men were able to lift the pole straight up over the pipe and slide it down inside! Royce and Felix raised the flag and pledged their allegiance to it.



*continued on page 3*

## Town Crier

Andi Riel, 435-6346 pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com

**A 4-H Community Service Project**, led by Jeremiah Chapman, is requesting donations that benefit folks who utilize Meals on Wheels. Items requested are: size 9 or 10 manila envelopes, books, birthday cards, stamps, puzzle books (preferably word searches and crosswords), individually wrapped snacks, coffee, tea, baskets of any size and small gift items (for example pens and pads of paper). Donations may be dropped off at the Josiah Carpenter Library until June. 1.

**2021 Dog Licenses available** – Please register your dogs by April 30th. We offer a number of options to register your dogs: online through the "dog licenses" link on the town website home page, in person at the town hall, by mail, or by the drop box located to the right of the town hall door. More information may be found on the town clerk/tax collector page on the town website: [www.pittsfieldnh.gov](http://www.pittsfieldnh.gov)

**Pittsfield Youth Workshop** - We are happy to announce that PYW has opened for winter in-person programming! Program activities will continue to look different, but we are positive we will have fun while staying safe and healthy! You do not have to register ahead of time for right now. Programs will be scheduled monthly, and each day will have an organized activity. Masks will need to be worn in the building at all times except when eating. A friendly reminder to all families that membership and program fees for the 2021 school year are waived to insure all youth will have the opportunity to participate in PYW activities!

**The Victory Workers 4-H Club is holding their 4-H Spring Flower Sale!** Order now for delivery before Mother's Day. Anyone who has ordered before knows just how gorgeous these plants are! All proceeds stay right here in our local 4-H Club to help with education, all programs, life-skills projects, camp scholarships, and more. Contact your local 4-Her to place an order, or contact Mark Riel at 491-2524 or [pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com](mailto:pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com)

**The Senior Center** has begun programs on Zoom and Facebook. If you are interested in them, please call the center at 435-8482.

**The Senior Center – Tuesday, March 23, at 10:30 am: Telephone Party:** If you don't want to participate in an online group, maybe talking on the phone would work better for you. If you are interested in participating in this conference call, please call the center at 435-8482 to sign up. This is open to anyone and you just need a phone.

**Catamount Womenaid** is a volunteer, women-led nonprofit founded in 2011, whose mission is to provide those in need with immediate, short-term financial assistance not available from other resources. Requests for assistance are submitted by a "validator" (in other words, a trustworthy source in the community). Catamount Womenaid serves people in Pittsfield, Deerfield, Epsom, Strafford and Northwood. Money is raised through various fund-raising efforts. For more information, please visit [www.catamountwomenaid.org](http://www.catamountwomenaid.org)

**Josiah Carpenter Library** - The library can come to you! Do you find it hard to visit the library? Library employees will deliver materials to your home. Call 435-8406 or email [lvogt@pittsfieldnh.gov](mailto:lvogt@pittsfieldnh.gov) to learn more and schedule a delivery.

Who is ready for some baseball/softball?! WE ARE! Register online!

<https://tshq.bluesombrero.com/pittsfieldbaseball>

Any questions please contact

[pittsfieldyouthbaseball@gmail.com](mailto:pittsfieldyouthbaseball@gmail.com)

**Happy Birthday** wishes to Pam Clattenburg on Friday! I hope you enjoy your special day.

### Upcoming Lenten and Easter Services

First Congregational Church, 24 Main Street, Pittsfield, will hold its Palm Sunday Service March 28, 10 am. The JuBellation Handbell Choir will provide special music, and palms will be distributed.

A special Maundy Thursday worship service including Holy Communion, commemorating the "Last Supper" of Jesus, will be held Thursday, April 1, 7 pm.

On Easter Sunday, April 4, 10 am, the traditional Easter worship service will be held. There will be no "sunrise" service or Easter breakfast this year.

Please wear a mask, stay distanced and follow ushers' instructions for all services. There is additional parking as well as a wheelchair accessible entrance at the rear of the church on Chestnut Street.

For more information about any of these services, call the church office at 435-7471 and speak with Reverend David Stasiak.

**Want to see the pictures in color?**

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Or scan the QR code



**The Island Flag** continued

In the late nineties, Royce persuaded the Pittsfield Rotary Club to finance the installation of a pole and spotlight on Drake Field, to illuminate the flag. The pole was set and then Ernest Locke, an electrician and member of the Rotary Club, installed the wiring and spotlight. Years later the light stopped working and has been left in disrepair.

In 2007 Royce asked me to help him cut a tree down. I thought he would be taking a tree down on his property but, instead, we headed to Drake Field and walked on the ice to the island to cut a big pine tree that had been leaning over for several years. So, if you ever wondered what happened to the leaning pine, I'm guilty. The tree either sank or went over the dam.

In the years since, I helped Royce cut a new pole, and paint and set it. I actually used the old pole at my home on Tilton Hill Road. We have cut limbs that were tearing at the flag. We also needed to pull the pole from the pipe to replace the rope. We could not pull it out and along came A.J. O'Hara, in his boat, who offered to help! AJ put his arms around the pole and out it came! Royce and I thanked AJ and told him he was now on the Flag Committee. We proceeded back to Royce's home for liquid refreshment.

AJ has been changing the flag and keeping an eye on it from his house on Barnstead Road ever since that day. Recently, AJ told me that the island is shrinking and becoming unstable, and that is why the flagpole lists to one side.

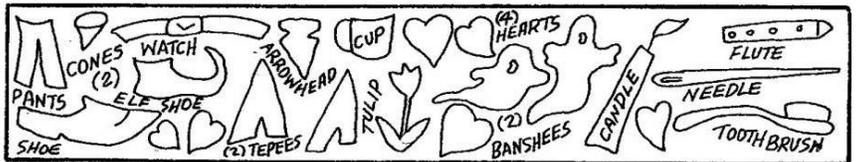
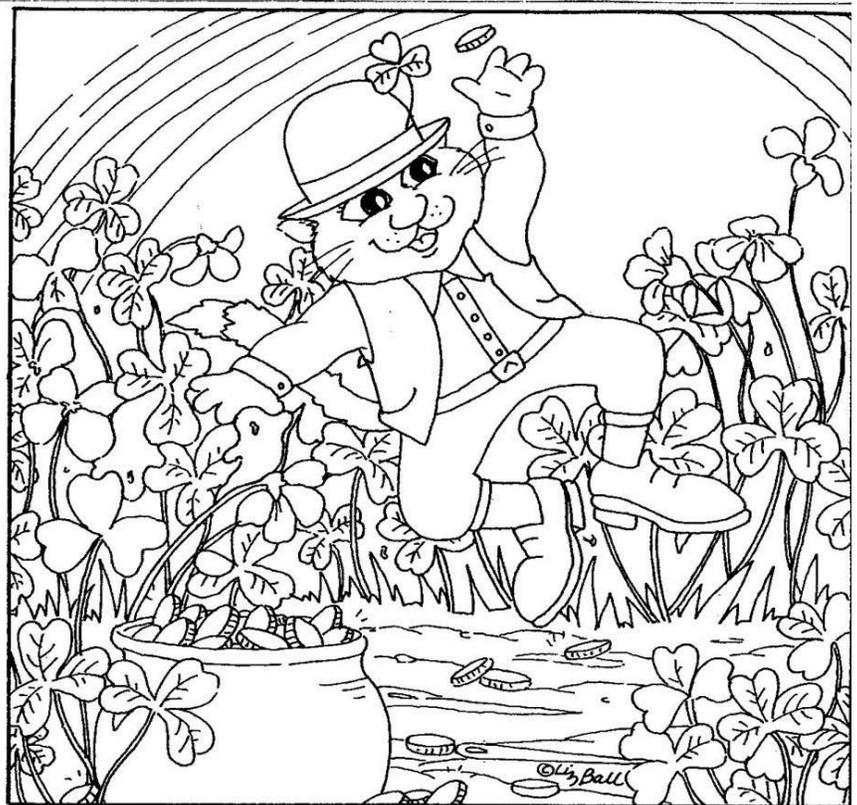
Royce told me that he and Felix put the flag up for the community; it is the "citizens' flag."

I miss my old friends, Royce Elkins and Felix Jenisch. We can remember and thank them when we pass by our flag.

Bye For Now,  
Stanley O'Bailey



**Leprechaun Hidden Pictures** [www.hiddenpicturepuzzles.com](http://www.hiddenpicturepuzzles.com)



**Double Word Puzzle #23** by Diana Westgate

Find the word that satisfies both definitions.

1. Type \_\_\_\_\_ Caring
2. Part of highway \_\_\_\_\_ Small road
3. One turn \_\_\_\_\_ Drink
4. Part of eyelid \_\_\_\_\_ Whip
5. Endure \_\_\_\_\_ Shoe form
6. Heavy metal \_\_\_\_\_ Go in front
7. Not fat \_\_\_\_\_ Tilt
8. Opposite of right \_\_\_\_\_ Remain behind
9. Rent out (Brit.) \_\_\_\_\_ Allow
10. Dyke \_\_\_\_\_ Penalty

The answers are on page six.

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## Cook's Corner

### Raisin Scones

While we're still in the spirit of St. Patrick's Day and also in the 'between' times as Winter reluctantly gives way to Spring, there's nothing like a good cup of tea and a tasty treat on a chilly morning. Here's a classic recipe for scones that I received years ago when I was expecting our first child. I vividly remember making these scones before our daughter was born in early April. This recipe brings back sweet memories and I hope you will enjoy these scones, too. Serve them with your favorite jams or jellies and good butter. Please buy local if you can!

- 2 cups flour
- ¼ tsp baking soda
- 1 & ½ tsp cream of tartar
- Pinch of salt
- 8 Tbsp butter, cut into small pieces
- ½ cup raisins, golden raisins, or dried currants (a little more if desired)
- 1 egg, beaten
- ½ cup buttermilk
- 1 egg yolk (for the glaze)
- 1 Tbsp warm water (for the glaze)

Heat oven to 425. Combine flour, baking soda, cream of tartar, and salt in a mixing bowl. Cut in the chilled butter pieces until the mixture resembles fine crumbs. Then add the raisins, beaten egg, and enough buttermilk until you have a soft dough.

Knead the dough very lightly on a floured work surface to just combine all of the ingredients. Handle the dough carefully so that you retain the air that's necessary for the scones to rise in the oven.

Roll the dough out to ½ to ¾ inch thickness. Cut the dough into 8 thick wedges, with a sharp knife.

Place the scones on 2 greased baking sheets, leaving ½ inch between each wedge. To glaze – mix the egg yolk and warm water, whisk to combine, then carefully brush the egg wash over the tops of the scones. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. Enjoy!

- MP Christakos



## To my constituents in Pittsfield,

This week, my committee heard HB 141, which requires the department of environmental services to keep track of all uses of class B fire-fighting foam – used on flaming liquids, very effective but contains PFAS chemicals that have contaminated some water supplies. The biggest issue was that the bill would require all fire departments that have used these foams at any time report when, where, and how much. The experienced fire-fighters on the committee knew that this would require digging through 60+ years of reports that might or might not have this data, and were paper, if anything. The bill mentioned that the department might need additional staff to set up and maintain the database – but was silent on the effort the fire departments would need to gather the data, in 120 days, no less! Current law already requires reporting use of these foams. After some discussion, the committee agreed that we couldn't support the bill.

The special committee on redistricting met for the first time this week, and we learned that the census numbers to actually do the redistricting will not be available until September. We talked about the process, and I pointed out the problem with our districts: the New Hampshire constitution requires every town large enough to merit a representative have one of its own, but the federal constitution requires every vote to count equally. So because Epsom was just enough larger than Pittsfield, the two towns were combined into one district, plus the floterial. It's a balancing act between the two mandates, and we need to agree on how to apply them. This committee will be starting process discussions in April, and actual redistricting in the fall.

*Representative Carol McGuire,*  
[mcguire4house@gmail.com](mailto:mcguire4house@gmail.com) 782-4918

**For up to date information from the State of NH and the CDC regarding Covid 19 and the Vaccine, go to:**

[www.nh.gov/covid19/](http://www.nh.gov/covid19/)      [www.cdc.gov/](http://www.cdc.gov/)

### Advertising in the Post

Costs begin at \$5.00 for a brief classified ad. Guidelines and order forms are located at [www.pittsfieldpost.org](http://www.pittsfieldpost.org)

## Classifieds

### Buying

Cash paid for: old wooden signs, automotive, carved birds & decoys, sterling, paintings, etc.

Joy in Loudon

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### Rider Construction

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### Seasonal Help Wanted

**Attn: Students!** Vintage Hill, LLC, a residential care home for the elderly, is seeking part-time seasonal help to assist with various tasks, to include but not limited to gardening, yard work, outside cleanup, etc.

Candidate preferably at least 16 years of age.  
10-12 hours per week.

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Pittsfield Center Development Corporation (PCDC), owner of the Community Center, is the fiscal agent for the *Pittsfield Post*. PCDC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to engage in activities that benefit Pittsfield. Checks should be made out to:

**Pittsfield Center Development Corporation, memo: Newspaper  
P.O. Box 253, Pittsfield, NH 03263**

Donations are tax-deductible. Donations above \$50.00 may be acknowledged as sponsor of the week.

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Text for Sponsorship: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answers to Double Word Puzzle #23

1. Type – **kind** – Caring
2. Part of highway – **lane** – Small road
3. One turn – **lap** – Drink
4. Part of eyelid – **lash** – Whip
5. Endure – **last** – Shoe form
6. Heavy metal – **lead** – Go in front
7. Not fat – **lean** – Tilt
8. Opposite of right – **left** – Remain behind
9. Rent out (Brit.) – **let** – Allow
10. Dyke – **levy** – Penalty

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### Post-It in the Post

Do you have an interesting story to share with your friends and neighbors? Are you part of a community group that has big news? Email: [pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org](mailto:pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org) by noon on Friday.

Guidelines: [www.PittsfieldPost.org](http://www.PittsfieldPost.org)



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