

# PITTSFIELD POST

A FREE WEEKLY PRODUCTION BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

“The best way to predict your future is to create it.” – Abraham Lincoln

JUNE 23, 2021

## Take Upper City Road to go ‘Over The Moon’

Pittsfield has an exciting new business venture. Michael Fairbrother and his wife, Berniece Van Der Berg, purchased 100 acres of land on Upper City Road in February 2021 and will move their Moonlight Meadery business from Londonderry to our fine town. Over The Moon Farmstead opened in mid-June with an outdoor tasting venue and retail gift shop, where you can also purchase their mead and beer.

Michael started his professional career in the technology field, working with several large corporations, as well as a few start-ups. He began experimenting with making beer in 1995 and later became intrigued with making mead. Mead is an alcoholic beverage created by fermenting honey, water and yeast along with various fruits, grains, or hops for flavoring. He describes himself as an ‘artist of fermentation’ and has been making mead and beer full time since 2009, when he opened Moonlight Meadery in Londonderry.



Michael and his team have been producing national and international award-winning mead ever since. As Michael said, “We have never entered a competition in the field where we have not won top honors.” Michael is also a nationally ranked and recognized craft beer judge, and continues to collaborate closely with other brewers across the country to help them grow this unique industry. Their mead production uses over 40,000 pounds of honey per year, more than is produced in the entire state of NH annually. They’ve been hosting about 10,000 customers per year at their Londonderry site and expect that number to double once they’re fully established here in Pittsfield. Moonlight Meadery is the largest wine producer in the State. They also sell their products nationally via several large retailers across 39 US states, as well as international exports. Their production facilities are still located in Londonderry, but they will eventually move all operations to Pittsfield.

The couple has exciting plans for Over The Moon Farmstead. They will have a full-service restaurant, including a wood-fired pizza oven and, in keeping with their ‘Beehive to Bistro’ vision, the restaurant fare will likely focus on items that involve honey. They have 18 apple trees, blueberries, strawberries, blackberries, and several new bee colonies. Over time, they will restore an existing structure that will serve as a wedding and events venue, and they will build another facility for production. This Fall they plan to have hayrides and other fun family activities. Eventually they expect to attract ‘agri-tourism,’ providing access to the various hiking trails, sledding hills, and wildlife habitats on their farmstead.



Since closing on the property, Michael and Berniece have been hard at work, logging long hours to thoughtfully and lovingly restore and preserve this historic property. The farm house was built in 1753, with most of the original flooring, woodwork, windows, and hearths remaining. The various rooms of the farm house will eventually become the restaurant and indoor tasting room areas. They are also thinking about creating an area for cooking classes.

Michael and Berniece are delighted to be part of Pittsfield and are eager to immerse themselves in the community. They recently hired two full-time resources and expect they will have about 50 employees here once they are fully operational. They offer competitive wages

*Continued on page 4*

**Pittsfield Town Crier** Andi Riel, 435-6346  
[pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com](mailto:pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com)

**Friday, June 25, 6:30pm** Joy Church is hosting "Joy in the Park." Free cookout for all at Dustin Park.

**Saturday, June 26th, 8am to 2pm**, The Greater Pittsfield Chamber of Commerce is holding their town-wide yard sale. To register and be on the map please call Louie at 603-848-1553 or email [gpcnh@hotmail.com](mailto:gpcnh@hotmail.com)

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**, 50 Main St. will be selling hot dogs and have a bake table and yard sale items on June 26, Town Wide Yard Sale day. Be sure to stop in as you check out all the yard sales in town. St. Stephens will also be open for worship at 9:30 on June 27, the first time since closure for Covid.

**Saturday, June 26, 11am** In remembrance of Ruth E. Strickhart, who passed away January 7, there will be a memorial service at the First Congregational Church, 24 Main St., Pittsfield. Please join us as we celebrate the life of Ruth. Refreshments will follow in the church vestry.

**The FB Argue Recreation Area** is OPEN - Swimming lessons are being offered again this summer; you can register during open hours. We will have two 2-week sessions, and each lesson will run for about ½ hour. If there is enough interest, we will consider running a session in August. The dates for the sessions are as follows: Session 1 Daytime: Monday, July 5 – Friday, July 16; Session 2 Nighttime: Monday, July 26 – Friday, August 6. Cost for lessons - Pittsfield residents: \$15 per child per session, non-residents: \$30 per child per session.

**The Pittsfield Youth Workshop** is hiring! PYW is looking for an active and energetic individual to help coordinate year-round programming for the youth of Pittsfield. If you are interested in learning more, go to [www.pittsfieldyouthworkshop.org](http://www.pittsfieldyouthworkshop.org).

**The Pittsfield Senior Center** – is open on a limited basis. Bingo is held Mondays and Thursdays at 10am. \$1 to play. You may bring your own beverage. Cribbage is Wednesdays at 10am. Both activities require calling the Center at 435-8482 to make reservations. Space is limited. Masks are still required and you'll be asked to complete a signed waiver. Don't forget – there are meals to go. Call the Center to for information – every Thursday you can pick up a hot meal or freshly made meal for "curbside pickup."

**Library Summer Reading program** - "Tails & Tales" will be offered from June 21 – Aug. 17. Please visit the Library to pick up a full program description. Story hours for families of pre-school age children will take place at the Town Pool at 10am on Thursday mornings. Activities for school age children will be provided on alternate Wednesday mornings at the Drake Field Recreation program.

**The B.C.E.P. Solid Waste Facility** has Seasonal Hours through September 30th. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 7:30am-4pm, Thursday 7:30am -6pm, and Saturday 7am -2pm Scale shuts down 15 minutes before closing. Closed Sunday and Monday. Need more information...visit [bcepsolidwaste.com](http://bcepsolidwaste.com)

**Happy Anniversary** wishes to Tina & Roger Metcalf, today. Cheers to many more years!

### F B Argue Recreation Area aka Town Beach

*Hours 12-5 Monday - Friday  
1-5 Saturday and Sunday*

- Cost: \$1.00 Pittsfield residents,  
\$1.50 Non-residents
- Family Season Pass: \$50.00
- Day Lessons July 5 - July 16
- Night Lessons July 26 - August 6
- Adult Only Schedule:  
Tuesday and Friday 10am -12pm
- Lessons and Family Passes  
may be purchased during  
beach hours.



### Double Word Puzzle #29 by Diana Westgate

Find the word that satisfies both definitions.

1. Not notice \_\_\_\_\_ Vantage point
2. Toss too far \_\_\_\_\_ Remove from power
3. Pinto \_\_\_\_\_ Liquid pigment
4. Succeed \_\_\_\_\_ Path between mountains
5. Small garden \_\_\_\_\_ Clothing repair
6. Give as security \_\_\_\_\_ Chess piece
7. Quick kiss \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken motion
8. Animal enclosure \_\_\_\_\_ Writing implement
9. Choose \_\_\_\_\_ Miner's tool
10. Small amount \_\_\_\_\_ Finger motion

Answers on page 4



## 30 Years Since Claremont The Monumental Ruling and the Work That Remains

On June 10 the NH School Funding Fairness Project marked 30 years since the start of the *Claremont School District v. Governor of New Hampshire* lawsuit. Filed by the Claremont, Pittsfield, Franklin, Lisbon, and Allenstown school districts, *Claremont's* ruling declared the state has a constitutional obligation to provide all children with an adequate public education and to fund schools with uniform taxes.

*Claremont* lawyer Andru Volinsky remarked this is both "a time to reflect and a . . . call to action." Volinsky recalled "Reading Recovery," a program in Claremont in the 1990s that helped below grade-level learners catch up in second grade. The district identified 50 students in need of the program, citing research that stated if those students don't catch up by second grade they are unlikely to ever do so. However, the district only had money to serve 30 students. Because the state would not contribute additional resources, educators were forced to choose 20 students to fail.

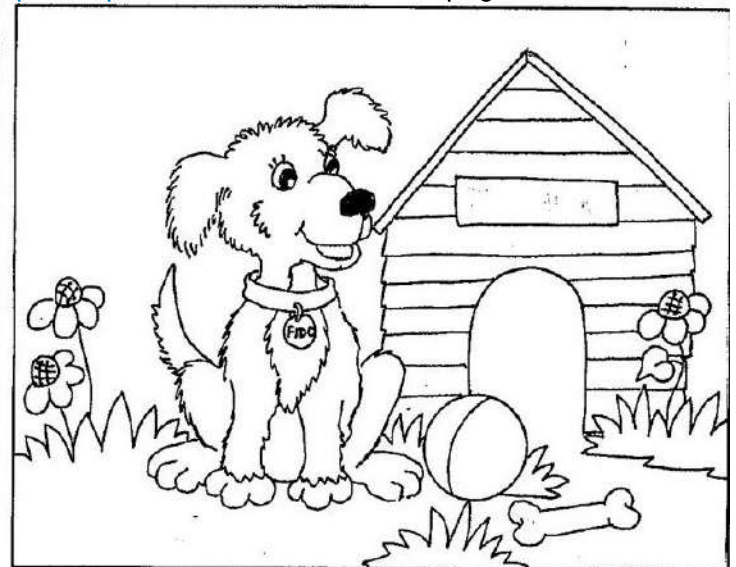
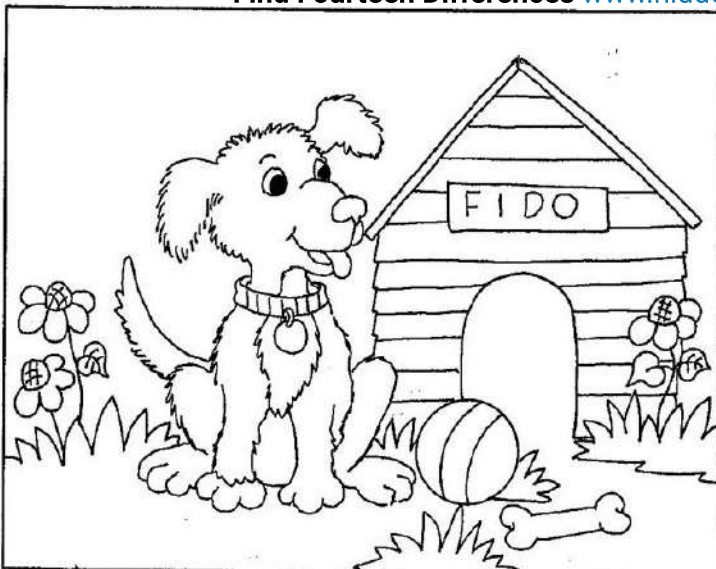
Though 30 years have passed, much of *Claremont's* promises remain unfulfilled. Molly Horn, who has lived the effects of the lawsuit as a student in Lisbon and a teacher in Franklin stated, "Where a student lives shouldn't determine how good their schooling is. [We] fill out our budget requests each year not with what will serve our students best, but with what will keep our spending the lowest." Horn is often told to offer more electives despite staff reductions, improve technology without adequate resources, and individualize curricula in bigger classes. Horn said, "We do the best we can with what we've got, despite there never being enough."

John Graziano, Pittsfield School District superintendent, spoke to the \$1 million funding shortfall Pittsfield recently faced. The FY 2019-2020 state budget provided one-time aid, allowing the town to cut taxes and fund schools. But now, without those funds, Pittsfield residents were given an impossible choice: raise already astronomical property taxes or cut school funding below even the default budget. Graziano declared, "The fight will continue, and 30 years from now we will remain convicted of this awesome responsibility."

Frank Sprague, current Claremont School Board chair and retired principal, spoke to the "ongoing and self-fulfilling prophecy of failure" in property-poor districts. Employers are cognizant of public school quality when choosing where to locate businesses, and underfunding schools robs communities of future economic investment.

John Tobin, *Claremont* lawyer and Chair of the NHSFFP Board of Directors, declared the work isn't over. "This problem continues, and in fact it's worse. The tax rate disparities . . . and the spending gaps are worse. What we need to do, ultimately, is change the minds of the people in [the legislature] or change the people in [the legislature]." *Molly Murphy, Communications Manager, NH School Funding Fairness Project* (Photo Left to Right: Frank Sprague, Molly Horn, Andru Volinsky, Tom Connair, John Graziano, and John Tobin.

**Find Fourteen Differences** [www.hiddenpicturepuzzles.com](http://www.hiddenpicturepuzzles.com) Answers on page 5



## Pittsfield Middle High School Class of 2021 Awards

- Honor Cords - Shelby Averill, Jah Gordon, Harrison Hill, Amber Johnson, Jesse MacGlashing, Benjamin Marcotte, Amina Shaaban, and Madison St. George
- New Hampshire Scholars Core Course of Study - Harrison Hill, Benjamin Marcotte, and Caleb Stopyro
- New Hampshire Scholars - Alden English (Career), Jah Gordon (STEM), Amber Johnson (STEM), Jesse MacGlashing (STEAM), Nathan Miracle (Career), and Amina Shaaban (Arts)
- National Honor Society - Jah Gordon, Harrison Hill, Amber Johnson, Jesse MacGlashing, and Benjamin Marcotte
- Salutatorian - Amber Johnson
- Valedictorian - Benjamin Marcotte
- Moody Kent Award - Jah Gordon and Benjamin Marcotte
- Richard Brooks Award - Amber Johnson
- Linden Sheehan Award - Jesse MacGlashing
- Matty Garrett Award - Matty Garrett
- Highest Academic Achievement - Benjamin Marcotte (English, math, and science)
- Highest Academic Achievement - Amber Johnson (Social Studies)
- D.A.R. Good Citizen Award - Amber Johnson
- Pride-Honor-Spirit Award - Harrison Hill
- United States Marine Corps Scholarship Excellence Award - Benjamin Marcotte and Amber Johnson

'Over the Moon' continued from pg. 1

and full benefits including medical, dental and 401(k). As they shared, "We are a small, family-based company and we want to create a family-friendly environment here in Pittsfield."

Check out their website [overthemoonfarmstead.com](http://overthemoonfarmstead.com) for more information. Plan to visit Michael, Berniece and the team at Over The Moon Farmstead soon. Rejoice in the stunning views, bring the little ones for kid-friendly slushies, and enjoy adult beverages and delicious Amish cheese plates. Hope to see you there soon!  
MP Christakos



## Answers to Double Word Puzzle #29

1. Not notice – **overlook** – Vantage point
2. Toss too far – **overthrow** – Remove from power
3. Pinto – **paint** – Liquid pigment
4. Succeed – **pass** – Path between mountains
5. Small garden – **patch** – Clothing repair
6. Give as security - **pawn** – Chess piece
7. Quick kiss – **peck** – Chicken motion
8. Animal enclosure – **pen** – Writing implement
9. Choose – **pick** – Miner's tool
10. Small amount – **pinch** – Finger motion

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## Classifieds

**Help Wanted: The Local Butcher** in Center Barnstead is looking for part- or full-time employees. Positions include a Slaughter Floor Assistant Butcher and Meat Packer/ Grinder. No experience necessary. Starting hourly pay for no experience is \$16.00 per hour. Full-time positions include health insurance, paid holidays, and vacation time. Please call (603) 813-2054 or email [butcher@metrocast.net](mailto:butcher@metrocast.net) for more information.

**Daycare Openings** Current openings for infants and toddlers at daycare in downtown Pittsfield. Over 20 years experience. Please call 603-435-0871. Leave message.

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## Cook's Corner

Hello friends! Here are two great sides to go with all your tasty grilled meats. Summer Squash Casserole and Pan Roasted Corn & Tomatoes take full advantage of Summer's bountiful fresh goodies. If you can, try to shop locally for your produce. Plan to visit the Barnstead Farmer's Market and the Black Dog Farmstead, both just right up the road.

### Summer Squash Casserole

3 Tbsp olive oil  
1 sweet yellow onion, chopped  
1 tsp minced garlic  
1 & ½ lbs yellow squash, sliced  
1 & ½ lbs zucchini, sliced  
3 Tbsp butter, melted  
1 sleeve Ritz crackers, crushed  
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese, divided  
2 eggs, lightly beaten  
½ cup heavy cream  
1 tsp salt or to taste  
½ tsp black pepper or to taste  
3 Tbsp grated Parmesan cheese

Heat oven to 375. Spray a 9 x 9 baking pan with cooking spray. Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion and saute for 3 minutes. Add garlic and squash to the pan. Cook for 8 to 10 minutes until the squash is tender. Remove pan from the heat, drain the squash in a colander to get rid of the liquid. Set aside.

Combine melted butter and crushed Ritz crackers. Place half of the crackers into a large bowl. Add the cooked squash mixture, ¾ cup of the Cheddar cheese, the eggs, heavy cream and salt & pepper. Stir to combine.

Spread the squash mixture into the baking pan. Top with remaining Cheddar cheese, remaining Ritz crackers and the Parmesan. Bake, uncovered for 20 to 25 minutes.

### Pan Roasted Corn & Tomatoes

1 Tbsp olive oil  
¼ cup shallots, chopped  
2 garlic cloves, minced  
2 cups fresh or frozen corn kernels (about 2 ears if fresh)  
2 cups cherry tomatoes, quartered (1 pint)  
¼ cup fresh basil, chopped  
1 Tbsp cider vinegar  
½ tsp salt

Heat oil in skillet, add shallots and garlic, saute for 1 minute. Add corn, saute 5 minutes, add tomatoes saute 2 minutes. Remove from heat. Add basil, vinegar, and salt.

You can serve this warm or cold. Either way, you will be delighted. I've served with grilled steak, London Broil, grilled swordfish, grilled or baked chicken. It's an easy side to make and the basil is so fragrant. Enjoy! *MP Christakos*

## To my constituents in Pittsfield,

This week, the House and Senate met to consider amendments to each other's bills (the House on Senate amendments to House bills, and vice versa.) Since, in most cases, the changes were minor (wording changes, effective date changes, making it one senator on a committee rather than three) we agreed with most of them. Debate was minimal, and primarily from those opposed to the basic bill rather than the Senate amendment.

We also agreed (for the most part) on Senate requests for committees of conference on our amendments to Senate bills. My committee has five conferences, one on HB 417, governor's powers during an emergency: the Senate has been working with the governor and a number of House members on improved language. I think the Senate amendment met minimal requirements for this issue, and every suggested change I've seen makes it better. We meet Monday to finalize the language.

The other four are on our changes to Senate bills, three omnibuses (SB 104, SB 133, and SB 155), and SB 42, expanding the ban on self-serving dealings by elected officials to services as well as goods. I don't know what their concerns are on any of these; I'm on the committee for SB 133 and expect it's mostly confusion after the 50+ page amendment! *Representative Carol McGuire*, [mcguire4house@gmail.com](mailto:mcguire4house@gmail.com)  
782-4918

### Find the Difference Answers

1. Eyes, 2. Collar, 3. Tag, 4. Tongue, 5. Number of petals on flower, 6. Stripe on ball, 7. Leaf on flower stem, 8. Tail, 9. Front paw, 10. Fido sign, 11. Eye lashes, 12. Eye brows, 13. Cheek fur, 14. Nose



**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)

PITTSFIELD, NH

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- Self-starter with excellent time management skills
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