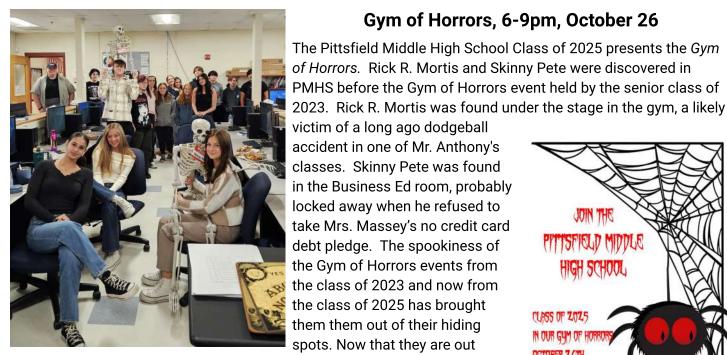
# **PITTSFIELD POST**

#### A FREE NEWSLETTER BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Gym of Horrors, 6-9pm, October 26

"We only live once Snoopy." - Charlie Brown "Wrong! We only die once. We live every day!" - Snoopy

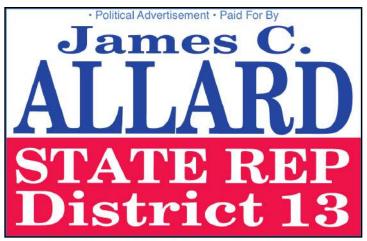
#### October 23, 2024

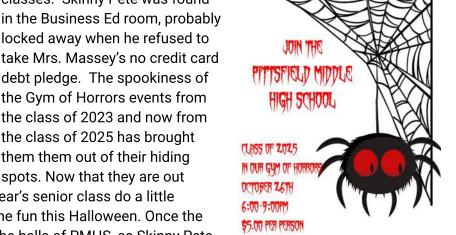


again and in the school, they will help this year's senior class do a little fundraising for their class trip and have some fun this Halloween. Once the season is over, they will return to haunting the halls of PMHS, as Skinny Pete really does not like turkey and snowmen scare Rick R. Mortis right out of his skin. PMHS Class of 2025

#### Share Your Thoughts about Pittsfield's Natural Spaces

The Pittsfield Conservation Commission wants to hear from you! Please complete this anonymous survey to help us understand your joys, concerns and hopes regarding Pittsfield's natural spaces. The survey can be found on the Town of Pittsfield Website, this url address: https://forms.gle/zyyFqpiWGBShEehs6 Or scan the QR code.









#### **Pittsfield Town Crier**

Would you like an event listed? Contact Andi Riel at pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com or 603-435-6346

**Thurs, Oct. 24, 6:30pm** - Pittsfield Circle of Home & Family group will meet the Community Center, lower level.

**Thurs, Oct. 24, 7pm** - The Pittsfield Conservation Commission will hold their monthly meeting at the Town Hall.

**Sat, Oct. 26, 12-3pm** - The Pittsfield Parks and Recreation Commission will be sponsoring the annual Harvest Fest Celebration at the F B Argue Recreation Area. There will be horse drawn wagon rides, pumpkin carving, cookout, games, and face painting. New this year, there will be finger printing, and Wild life Encounters will be doing a wild animal show at 1pm. For information, please contact Minni at 603-290-4068. Come join us for some family fun.

**Sat, Oct. 26, 6:30-8pm** - The PES PTO is sponsoring the Trunk or Treat event at the Globe/MSA Mfg parking lot.

**Mon., Oct. 28, 5pm** - The PHS Alumni Association is meeting in the PMHS media center to work on the annual fundraising project. If you would like to help fold newsletters and adhere labels, we could use some extra hands. See you then.

**Mon., Oct. 28, 6-7pm** - The Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session at the Town Hall to register new voters and make any necessary corrections for State General Election Day, Nov. 5. \*\*Please note: This will be the last time to register to vote or make changes until Nov. 5.

**Tues, Oct. 29** - Spaghetti Dinner for Breast Cancer Awareness at the Friendly Diner, 44 Main St, Pittsfield. Seating times 5pm, 6pm and 7pm. Tickets are \$15 and available ahead of time at the Friendly Diner and the Fire Station (If you are unable to attend donations are accepted at the restaurant or the fire station.) Support this cooperative effort between the Friendly Diner and the Pittsfield Firefighters Association.

**Tues, Oct. 29, 5-7pm** - Pittsfield Youth Athletic Association is hosting the Soccer Awards and Celebration at the Ball Field on Tilton Hill Rd. Come join us for a cookout/end of year celebration for the 2024 Soccer Season. Food is on us and we will have fun activities for the kiddos. The window for food and activities will be open from 5-6pm, and awards will begin promptly at 6pm.

**Thurs, Oct. 31, 5-7pm** - Halloween Trick or Treat in the Town of Pittsfield.

**Thurs, Oct. 31, 5-8pm** - Be sure to stop in at the PYW (Pittsfield Youth Workshop) Haunted House on Park St. This is designed by and set up by the youth at PYW.

**Thurs, Oct. 31, 5-8pm** - Get ready for a spooktacular evening! The Pittsfield Players are thrilled to invite all little ghouls and goblins to our "Halloween Trick or Treat" event on Halloween night at the Scenic Theatre, 6 Depot St. Kids can enjoy four fun-filled stations where they'll collect treats and participate in games. Capture the moment with a photo booth and snap a picture with your favorite dressed character. Mark your calendars and come join the Halloween fun.

**The Gabriel Douglas Anthony 21 Foundation** was established by Gabe's family after his death to provide roadside safety equipment to all High School aged drivers. Please visit the website https://gda21foundation.org to learn more about this wonderful Foundation or more importantly to donate. You may also contact the Foundation at GDA21 Foundation, 98 Main St., Pittsfield, NH 03263; 603-470-6927 or email gda21foundation@gmail.com

**Dowboro Farm,** 615 Dowboro Rd is open for the season - Thurs - Sat, 9:30am - 6pm and Sun 10:30-4pm. The 4-H Young Entrepreneurs have stocked up the store - please come and check it out.

Come down to **LEAVITT'S CIDER MILL** and get some delicious fresh cider. This year marks 94 years of business. The mill will be open Saturdays and Sundays, 10am-4pm, until Thanksgiving. Address - 49 South Main St., Pittsfield. Phone (603)435-8750.

**Pittsfield Hoops 603,** in partnership with Pittsfield Youth Athletics, is committed to fostering the growth and development of our local youth through basketball. We're reaching out to our wonderful community for support. We are in need of basketball shoes to donate to players who might not have access to the proper footwear. Your generous donation will ensure that every child has the opportunity to participate fully and safely in our program. If you have new or gently used basketball shoes in any size, please consider donating them to our cause. Every pair makes a difference! Drop-off location is at Bell Brothers Store. If you can't make it to the store, please email us at pittsfieldhoops603@gmail.com or text us at 603-341-2691, and we will gladly arrange a pickup.

We will have an online inventory where you can browse the donated shoes. Closer to basketball season, we will be available for in-person selections to ensure every child gets the right fit. Donations will be accepted and split equally between Pittsfield Hoops 603 and Pittsfield Youth Athletics.

**BINGO** hosted by Pittsfield Youth Baseball/Softball Association Bingo is held every Saturday. They have a great menu of food items along with their games and it all benefits the children of Pittsfield for their baseball/softball program. Doors open at 3:30pm and bingo starts at 6pm at Circle 9 Ranch in Epsom.

**Pittsfield Youth Athletics Association Basketball** Registration is now open. Ages 4-12, \$50/player. Deadline to register is Nov. 8. Coaches and sponsors



are needed. For information, please visit the website at www.pittsfieldyouthathletics.com or email pittsfieldyouthathletics@gmail.com

There are several vacancies on the **Budget Committee.** Please contact Town Moderator Jackson Marston at jmarston@pittsfieldnh.gov or 603-396-3793 (call or text) or the town hall if interested or have any questions. The volunteer application can be found on the town website www.pittsfieldnh.gov.

**PES and End 68 Hours of Hunger** are joining forces to create positive change. Are you eager to help our community bag and deliver groceries for families in need? This impactful program ensures groceries are available over the weekend. To sign your family up, go to https://registration.end68hoursofhunger.org We're seeking community heroes to assist with weekly bagging and delivery every Thursday morning. To learn more, contact Mike Curtin or Kate Price at mcurtin@sau51.org or kprice@sau51.org.

**Happy Birthday** wishes to Peter Tuttle on Thurs, Oct. 24, and to my nephew, Jackson Riel, and Janice Sargent on Fri, Oct. 25.

Want to see the pictures in color?

Subscribe to receive the *Post* by Email by scanning the QR code. Or go to:



www.pittsfieldnhcommunitycenter.org

#### Advertising in the Post

Costs begin at \$5.00 for a brief classified ad. Guidelines and order forms are located at <u>www.pittsfieldpost.org</u>

#### PITTSFIELD POST www.PittsfieldNHCommunityCenter.org

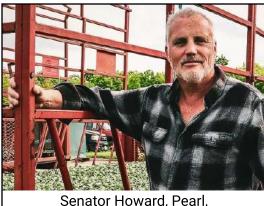
The *Pittsfield Post* is a non-profit, free newsletter that serves Pittsfield citizens, businesses, town government, town schools and charitable organizations. The newsletter publishes relevant and important news, information, and special interest stories that impact residents, keeping the community informed and providing a forum for dialogue.

The *Pittsfield Post* is published bi-weekly, in both print and digital formats, through the efforts of a volunteer team of residents.

Please support your community newsletter. Checks should be made out to the non-profit: Pittsfield Center Development Corporation, memo: Pittsfield Post. P.O. Box 253, Pittsfield, NH 03263. Donations may also be made on our website.

Send us your news! Individuals, community groups and businesses, email us your news, opinions and creative work. Details about submissions are on our website. Deadline is 9am on Friday.

Pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org



Republican for NH Senate



Kelly Roberts, Democrat for NH Senate

#### **Pittsfield Post**



Jim Allard Independent for NH House

#### NH Senate and NH House of Representatives Candidate Survey

## Do you support New Hampshire's current system of public-school funding, with about two-thirds of total funding coming from local property taxes?

**Pearl, R, NH Senate:** Yes, in absence of another proposal that excludes a broad-based sales or income tax, I believe this is the best option at this time.

**Roberts, D, NH Senate:** I believe that providing a quality public education is a fundamental responsibility, as outlined in our state constitution. While the current system, relying heavily on local property taxes, reflects our commitment to local control, it can lead to significant disparities between communities with varying property wealth. This challenges the constitutional mandate to offer equal educational opportunities to all children in New Hampshire. I support exploring funding solutions that reduce over-reliance on property taxes and promote equitable funding across districts. By incorporating additional state-level funding mechanisms, we can ensure that every student, regardless of their zip code, has access to the quality education they deserve while respecting our constitutional obligations.

**Allard, I, NH Senate:** The current system of funding NH's public schools has been failing for decades and I would not defend it. It is neither fair, nor legal, as the courts have repeatedly found. It is also inadequate to the task of providing NH's children with a 21st century education. It has rewarded communities with high property values and deprived the property-poor majority of towns. At present, the system punishes our citizens for owning property. It is the sole responsibility of the Legislature to rectify the inadequacies and resolve the imbalance. The time for reform is past due. The time to stop spending resources fighting losing court battles and instead invest in NH's future is now. The next session of Legislature needs the bipartisan courage to finally tackle this issue and bring forth solutions that benefit all of the state's residents, especially the young people needing a proper and comprehensive education.

**Aures, R, NH House:** Property taxes need to be reduced, it is not fair to those on fixed incomes to keep raising their property taxes unnecessarily. Other New England states have devised temporary tax schemes such as an Income Tax or Sales Tax that supposedly goes away once the perceived need is met. Fact, those taxes never went away and then were increased over time. Those New England states that have done so have put a permanent burden on their tax payers. If NH pushes through a Sales Tax & Income Tax, as democrats keep asking for it, will increase the average NH household Tax Burden \$4,797.00 My constituents do not want this increased tax burden. The schools need to use money wisely before they are allowed to ask for more. We're aware hundreds of thousands in various school districts being wasted either on DEI consultants or administrative bureaucrats that are force fed to the public schools. At a point common sense needs to be employed! **Continued on pg. 5** 



**Kelly, D, NH House:** NH ranks #50 out of the 50 states with how much it contributes to public education. The burden is shifted to the homeowners through property taxes. This needs to change and if I earn your vote to serve the people of Pittsfield and Chichester in the NH Legislature, this will be a top priority for me.

The needs of homeowners, educators and our children all need to be considered. Over the years, our students' issues have changed and our towns have been forced to absorb these additional costs through increased property taxes. Budgets are cut to the detriment of our teachers and students, for the purpose of reducing property taxes. It is time for our state and our legislature to pay attention to the cries of homeowners and families in Pittsfield and Chichester and work out a solution that benefits all parties.

**Schroth, D, NH House:** Taking surveys helps a candidate figure out where they stand on an issue. This will also help people decide who to send to the State House. The only reason our Public Schools and our Property Owners are suffering is the Republicans in the State House refuse to follow their Constitutional Oath and they ignore the courts ruling on adequacy and a fair tax! Sometimes you get people who are Light for Heavy work and Heavy for Light work!

**Wood, R, NH House:** I believe that the main control of public school funding remains local. The cost per student averages just over \$20,000 and varies greatly per town, from \$14,000 to just over \$40,000. It is clear that the individual districts implement the state mandates and regulations and bear the primary responsibility for the resulting cost. The state needs to find a way to work with the towns to simplify the reporting structure and relieve excessive state mandates. Too much money is wasted in the SAU, which does not provide enough of a return to the education of the students and the direction of the schools. We need to work out solutions with their primary goal of doing more with less. The lower student enrollment numbers, which have been declining over the last 20 years, demand that action.

## Do you support the "Education Freedom Account" program, which gives students access to the per-pupil share of state school funding to spend on private school or home school expenses?

**Pearl, R, NH Senate:** Yes, very low income families should have the ability to use their property tax dollars to help their child have the best access to educational opportunities for their children.

**Roberts, D, NH Senate:** I understand that parents seek the best educational environments for their children, and I support the idea of educational choice. However, I am concerned about diverting publicly raised tax dollars to private institutions. Our state constitution emphasizes maintaining a strong public education system and can be interpreted to restrict public funds from being used for private schooling. Based on Article 83 of the New Hampshire Constitution, public funds should not support sectarian schools or institutions. By allocating tax dollars to private schools, we risk undermining the financial stability of our public schools and violating constitutional principles. While I'm not opposed to school choice itself, I believe that public tax dollars should be invested in public education to strengthen our schools and fulfill our constitutional duty to provide quality education to all students. **Continued on pg.6** 

**Allard, I, NH House:** Simply put, I do not. It is the taking of a vast amount of public funds for private gain. There is not one word of justification for the program contained in the New Hampshire Constitution, to which I have twice taken an oath to support. None of the millions of dollars thus far in the program were included in the budget. The administrators of the program were never vetted or subjects of a bidding process before they were granted a lucrative portion of the funds. The majority of participants in the program were already attending private schools or being home schooled—clearly exercising their "education freedom." Do taxpayers really need to underwrite these private decisions? These same taxpayers are now responsible to make up budget shortfalls in every school district. One person's educational freedom is everyone else's tax increase.

**Aures, R, NH House:** My democrat opponent opted out of public schools. Is there a reason other parents should be trapped in systems that are failing the children? Let them choose for public schools, public charter schools, private schools, home schools and let competition improve our students academic outcomes. Currently it costs approximately \$21,000 to \$33,000 per public school student. Charter schools average about \$10,000 per student. Public school enrollment keeps declining while costs continue to rise astronomically. The only way to solve our school funding problems is to have the schools sharpen their pencils and rein in their spending. School enrollment is sharply trending downward, there will never be enough money to pay for all the things my Democrat opponent wants even if she could push through her Sales Tax and Income Tax.

**Kelly, D, NH House:** Families have always had the option to pay for their children to attend either a charter, private or religious school.

In 2021 the NH legislature passed the Freedom Accounts and since then, for the first time, our state now pays for those educational options. Our legislature passed this law but never funded it. These unbudgeted state dollars take money away from our public schools to fund individual students at charter, private and religious institutions. I do not agree with this premise. Our public schools need more funding from the state, not less. Diverting funds from public education only adds more burdens on the taxpayers.

**Schroth, D, NH House:** Another example of the Republicans not following their oath, as it says in the NH Constitution - we will NOT be forced to pay for religious schools and by passing this new legislation in the budget was another violation of their oath. As it says in the NH Constitution, no new law goes in the budget, just funding for our Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches.

**Wood, R, NH House:** I support the Education Freedom Account (EFA) program. The more I talk to parents of school-age children, the more I understand the need for flexibility when finding the proper teaching environment. Low-income families need to get their children out of schools that don't work for them. This program allows families to customize their student's education. It is not just about attending a private school but any kind of environment that works best for your kid. You can go halftime to a school that is great at math and do English on your own in a homeschool environment. It allows parents the freedom that is necessary to educate their children. EFAs are about funding students, not institutions.

#### NH's State Board of Education has ruled that Pittsfield must pay the tuition of any student who chooses to attend an open enrollment public school, regardless of the school's location or cost. Do you support the State Board of Education's position on this issue?

**Pearl:** I generally support all opportunities for children to receive the best education available to them. If this decision helps families achieve opportunities, I am in favor of it.

**Roberts:** As a candidate dedicated to fair education for all New Hampshire students, I recognize the challenges faced by the Pittsfield School District with Prospect Mountain High School. The state's inadequate funding system burdens local taxpayers and limits school resources. The ongoing Rand v. State of New Hampshire trial highlights the urgent need for legislative reform.

We must amend NH RSA 194-D to prevent financial burdens from open enrollment and advocate for increased state funding to support diverse student needs, including special education and low-income families. If elected, I pledge to reform our funding system to provide equitable education for every student, regardless of location.

Continued on pg.6

**Allard, I, NH House:** I am extremely concerned that we have generated another situation on par with the on-going legal battles of public school funding that, win or lose, is going to cost taxpayers (especially in property poor communities such as Pittsfield) significant sums that are not currently in anyone's budget. This decision flies in the face of any concept of local control. The students left the school district without prior coordination so that no budgetary accommodation is possible—basically the State just handed the Pittsfield schools a bill they cannot pay. I do not see a resolution without court intervention. This decision is a public school version of the Education Freedom Accounts. Take tax dollars from one school district, give them to another, and leave the local taxpayers to make up for the loss. The State Board's unfortunate decision is based on failed communication and poor coordination.

**Aures, R, NH House:** Pittsfield's enrollment numbers are declining, make continuous improvements and take all the students you can get. If our students want to leave the Pittsfield school then the problem is the school itself. Quit teaching woke ideology, focus on math, science, history, English, arts and maybe our students will stay both here and in Chichester.

**Kelly, D, NH House:** I do not agree with the ruling by the state and support the current appeal by the town to not pay the tuition to an out of town high school. We need to enhance the educational system in Pittsfield rather than continually drain its funding. Every dollar that follows a child to another public, charter, private or religious school subtracts money from the Pittsfield School budget which then can affect our teaching staff as well as the curriculum.

Since NH contributes little to the local school budget, the burden is once again added to local property owners. I have served on the Chichester School Board for 6 years. I know how we struggled year-after-year with our budget, because so many items are mandated but not funded by the government. When NH provides appropriate funding for our schools, our curriculum and staffing can improve so students will not want to seek options outside of our local public schools.

**Schroth, D, NH House:** Open Enrollment is part of School Choice. I am a Constitutionalist. I find this contrary to the Constitution. It was Passed in the Budget, along with the States Abortion Restrictions.

{ART} 18-A {Budget Bills} all sections of all budget bills before the general court shall contain only the Operating and Capital Expenses for the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of Government, no section for footnote of any such budget bill shall contain any provision which establishes, amends or repeals statutory law, other than provisions establishing, amending or repealing, operating and capital expenses for the executive, Legislative, Legislative and Judicial Branches of Government. November 28, 1984 - Also in the NH State Constitution, no one can be forced to support any religiously based schools.

**Wood, R, NH House:** An open enrollment school is an example of a public school choice. 43 states have state policies permitting interdistrict open enrollment. In NH, our case seems to be the first actual application of the law. I believe in the overall purpose of the bill but am not sure about the cost responsibility. Free choice aims to get children out of schools that are not working for them. This can be a very effective tool. However, if the residence school district has to pay the cost and lose adequacy aid funding, that would be an excessive penalty. We need to wait for the court's decision on the first legal test of this law before proposing amendments to the law.

To better provide election coverage of the NH Senate and House of Representatives the *Pittsfield Post* will publish a special weekly edition on October 30. An additional three question candidate survey will be included. The deadline to submitt letters of endorsement and commentary is 9am Friday October 25: email pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org.





#### Cook's Corner Apple Pumpkin Muffins

Here's a tasty breakfast or snack treat that's perfect for the season. These muffins are easy to prepare and they'll make your kitchen smell scrumptious

while they're baking. I prefer to use Honeycrisp apples for these, but any firm, sweet apple will do. Instead of serving with butter, my family enjoys these with a schmear of whipped cream cheese and a little bit of apple jelly. Enjoy!

- 1 & ½ cups flour
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1 tsp kosher or coarse salt
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp pumpkin pie spice
- <sup>3</sup>4 cup pumpkin puree
- 1 large egg
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil

1 large firm-sweet apple, peeled, cored and cut into ¼ inch cubes, plus another apple for garnish

1 tsp vanilla extract

Thin apple slices for garnish



Heat oven to 375 and set oven rack to middle position. Line a standard 12-cup muffin tin with paper liners. In a large bowl, whisk together the

flour, sugars, salt, baking powder and pumpkin pie spice. In another bowl,

whisk together pumpkin puree, egg, oil, apple and vanilla.

Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and stir to combine. Divide the batter among the 12 muffin cups. Top each muffin with an apple slice. Bake until a cake tester comes out clean, 20 to 25 minutes. Let muffins cool on a rack for 15 minutes - MP Christakos



#### Post-It in the Post

BIG NEWS Do you have an interesting story to share with your friends and neighbors? Are you part of a community group that has big news? pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org by 9 a.m. Friday

Guidelines: www.PittsfieldPost.org

#### **Historic Trail Signs**

Many of you have walked the Historic Trail in Pittsfield, following the blue signs that signify historic landmarks throughout the town. And you've probably noticed that the blue signs are faded now, and becoming difficult to read. We have a plan to remedy that.

Soon the Historical Society will be removing several signs at a time to have them professionally repainted. While those signs are being repaired, their posts will remain in the ground. Once a sign is completely restored, it will then be securely replaced upon its post. We fully expect to take several years to complete this project since there are 35 signs, and we don't want to remove them all at the same time.

So, please don't be concerned if you see a post where a sign was previously located. It's not vandalism, it's renewal.

The idea of a historic trail originated during Old Home Week in 1901, when Town Historian Henry L. Robinson marked over 50 sites that related to events or incidents in the town's past. Tours given by Mr. Robinson during that week generated great interest, as well as ideas about creating a permanent trail, but such projects require funding and happen neither easily nor quickly.

In 1997, at Pittsfield's Community Profile Conference, the concept of a permanent trail was once again considered. Shortly thereafter, the Historical Society's Board of Directors voted to assume responsibility for the project. A three-person committee raised the \$52,000 for the cast aluminum signs, and the concept became reality. The Historic Trail is 1.5 miles long and begins at Lyman Park, on Carroll Street. Walking guides with maps are available from the museum on Oak Street, or at the gazebo in Lyman Park.

If you haven't yet had the opportunity to experience the trail, pick a pleasant day and spend some time wandering the town. You'll be amazed at what has taken place here. *Liz Dimmick, Pittsfield Historical Society* 



#### Teddy Belanger

It is with the heaviest of hearts that we share that Theodore "Teddy" Belanger, left our world on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 on his own terms.

Teddy came into our lives at the age of 3 1/2 and from the first day we met him, he has been our cherished boy. The hurt of losing him so soon will never leave our hearts, but it will dim with time and be replaced by the bright thoughts of his beautiful smile, quick wit, "Bear" hugs and his trademark response of "I love you more".

Teddy was a kind, gentle human being who touched more lives than can be counted. He loved breakfast foods, riding his motorcycle, Scooby Doo and taking things apart just to "see how they worked".

Teddy is survived by his parents: Donald R. Belanger, Jr and Karen P. (Gilson) Belanger of Pittsfield NH; his "Gram": Florence Gilson; his "Memere": Rita Belanger; his sister: Crystal Williams of Kansas; and many extended family and friends. Teddy was predeceased by his "Gramp": William Gilson, Jr; his "Pepere": Donald Belanger, Sr; and his cherished companion and confidante: Edward Boesel.

Calling hours will be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at Roan Family Funeral Home - Still Oaks Chapel, 1217 Suncook Valley Highway in Epsom from 4pm to 6pm. There is no burial.

Teddy struggled with mental health issues throughout his life and just could not seem to find his way to happiness. We are sharing this information not only to honor Teddy but also to let anyone who may be struggling with mental health issues know that YOU MATTER and there is nothing to be ashamed of. As difficult as it may seem, seek help from a friend, loved one, your doctor, NAMI 1-800-242-6264 or the suicide crisis line at 988.

"Our Precious Bear, you were not born from our blood but from our hearts. You will always be there until the day we meet again. Love you more. Mum and Dad." To share a memory or offer a condolence, please visit www.roanfamilyfuneral.com.

COOKOUT, WAGON RIDES, WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS, CHILI COOKOFF, PIE CONTEST, PUMPKIN CARVING, GAMES & MORE!

HARVEST

🖌 FEST 🗲

OCTOBER 26, 2024 | 12-3PM F.B. ARGUE RECREATION AREA 35 CLARK STREET, PITTSFIELD,NH

PITTSFIELD PARKS & RECREATION





#### Pittsfield's Local Ice Cream Ready for Your Holiday Enjoyment

Thanks to the hard work of area farmers, easy access to fresh, local foodstuffs has really grown. One especially flavorful example is ice cream. *Little Red Hen* on Norris Road began selling its own ice cream in 2019. *Matras Maple Sugarhouse* on Catamount Road began selling their ice cream in 2023. Then this past summer the *Marston Farm Store* on Webster Mills Road added ice cream to their product line. All three families have shared some of their ice cream journey with the *Post*. Here's the background to your local ice cream:



#### Little Red Hen

Back in 2019, we needed a way to use up all the extra goat milk we were producing from our small raw goat dairy. It needed to be a value added product with a reasonable shelf life. We started making ice cream and it was a huge hit, until the state of NH told us we couldn't sell ice cream made with raw milk. So we began on a journey to change the raw milk law. It took us three years to change the law but we did. Now small raw dairies can make and sell raw milk ice cream so long as they operate under the current exemption for raw milk sales.

This was a big win for small dairy farmers.

For us, it catapulted our business. The story was followed by 50,000 people, featured on local news and in several local newspapers. It even made national and international news on MSNBC, Yahoo News & US News and World Report. We now make more than 40 flavors and have a huge following for our ice cream. People drive from all over for it, and we were recently featured on NH Chronicle.

We make sure to have all the most popular flavors, but we've also created many of our own unique flavors like Udder Joy, Blueberry Crisp, Sweet Feed & Herd Queen. There's no magic behind creating the flavors—it's really just us sitting around and dreaming things up and then trying it out. The most popular flavors right now are Coffee Heath Behind Bars, Creamsicle, Vanilla Bean & Pumpkin Pie. You may be wondering why it's called Coffee Heath Behind Bars...Since our ice cream was illegal, during our quest to change the law, we decided to name our brand Bootleg Ice Cream. We asked our Facebook followers to suggest criminally inspired names for our then 7 flavors. They did not disappoint. We began this journey to 40 flavors with Vanilla Vigilante, Criminally Cocoa, Prohibition Pistachio, Bootleg Berry, Black Market Raspberry, Coffee Heath Behind Bars and Crookies & Cream. All of our flavors are made with extracts—no artificial flavors or even "natural flavors". Extracts are the most natural way to flavor. We also source only natural food derived colors, such as beets, annatto, purple carrots and spirulina. We do add mix-ins to some flavors like Oreo cookies, and can't control what ingredients are in them, but we make sure to offer plenty of options that have nothing but wholesome, simple goodness.

It's important to know that all our ice cream is made here on our farm with our own milk, with ingredients we can pronounce. The base for each flavor is our own raw goat milk, heavy cow cream & sugar. The draw to goat milk ice cream is that it is digestible and well tolerated by those that can't tolerate cow milk products. However, goat milk doesn't have enough fat for the ice cream to be creamy. We experimented with several recipes and options, but found that heavy cow cream is the best. But what does that mean for our customers that have trouble with cow dairy? We spent a long time finding just the right source for our heavy cow cream. We now work with one farm in Massachusetts; they are a 100-year-old-certified A2 jersey cow dairy. That means that their cream is certified A2 jersey cream and very tolerable for people with dairy issues. It was very important to us to make sure our customers could enjoy our ice cream—both for its creaminess and for its digestibility. Based on feedback from our customers, we've more than accomplished our mission. More information can be

Matras Maple Sugarhouse & Dairy found at https://www.littleredhenfarm.net/

#### Matras Maple Sugarhouse & Dairy

We started making a small amount of ice cream for ourselves after we started our micro-dairy back in 2021. We absolutely loved our ice cream especially since the ingredients are so simple and healthy, so we started selling it at our sugarhouse farm store in the summer of 2023 in addition to the milk, maple syrup, and (Continued on page 15)

other farm products we offer.

We offer four flavors that cover a lot of people's favorites: Chocolatey Chip, Raspberry, Coffee, and Maple Crunch. Maple crunch is definitely the local favorite. We make it fresh right here on our Pittsfield farm using all of our own main ingredients in the ice cream base: Raw grass-based cow's milk/cream and maple syrup. We offer it in 6 oz paper cups for \$5/each just like the Little Red Hen. (NH law limits us to 6 oz cups for our level of inspection).

Our farm store is open and stocked Monday through Saturday year-round. In addition to the ice cream, we offer raw milk, cow's milk soap, a full line of maple products, fresh eggs, local beef, local honey, sweet corn in season, and artwork by Gene Matras. All produced right here in Pittsfield. Find more information at <u>www.matrasmaple.com</u>.

#### **Marston Farm Store**

Wes Goss is the owner of Sadie's Scoops Inc. which produces our ice cream. Wes has been a friend of the Marston Farm for a long time, he used to be one of the dealers for all of our cleaning supplies. So now he brings ice cream instead and always stays around and chats for a while. The Gosses are a wonderful family and we love that we can continue to work with them. We had been talking with Wes about making our own raw milk ice cream, but we didn't have a place at the farm to do it so we decided to sell



his amazing ice cream. Cookie Dough, and Campfire Delight are favorite flavors. So many people were asking us for ice cream, both raw and regular, and we figured Matras Maple has their amazing raw milk ice cream so we would offer regular ice cream. More information can be found at https://marstonfarmnh.com/

All three farm stores plan to have ice cream through the holiday season. So, rest assured, your desserts can be even more delicious with local ice cream on top.



#### **Find the Hidden Objects**

#### To the voters in Chichester and Pittsfield,

Talking with folks of both parties as we campaign for the NH House, we have heard over and over again that women's privacy and reproductive healthcare should be just that. Private. And safe Healthcare. We were surprised at the number of Republicans, AND men of all ages, who believe that this is a priority in the upcoming election. If you, like most Americans, say abortion should be legal in the first trimester (80%) and in all or most cases (63%) (Pew Research Center), you have only one choice available to you: The combined ticket of Sally Kelly (D) and Jim Allard (I). And second, if you are a disaffected Republican, feeling that your party no longer speaks for you as Jim Allard did, again, you have only one choice: The combined ticket of Sally Kelly (D) and Jim Allard (I). Both candidates take the time to listen to the voters, and look for ways to work across party lines. Their mantra? People over politics. For more detailed information about their positions, visit www.sallyandjim.com. I think you will find that you have much more in common with them than you might imagine. Please vote on November 5. Leslie Ari, Chichester

#### Meet Your NH House of Representatives Candidates Thursday October 24

On Thursday, October 24, a "Meet Your House Candidate" forum is being held at the Chichester Grange/Town Hall on Main Street at 6:30pm.

This is the only opportunity to meet all 5 of the candidates and ask any question you would like, before the election on November 5. All 5 House candidates who are seeking to represent Pittsfield and Chichester have been invited (Allard, Aures, Kelly, Schroth and Wood). Two of these candidates will be elected in November and will serve all of us from Pittsfield and Chichester, in Concord, come January. This is an excellent time for you to hear in "real time" from all the candidates on the ballot before voting. *Sally Kelly* 

#### **Families Really Are Consumers of Education Now**

In February of 2023 the superintendent of the Barnstead Alton School district gave a presentation at a deliberative session. That presentation is available online and is easy to understand. (Go to Prospect Mountain High School website home page and enter "open enrollment" in the search bar. Select the "Alton Delib Session Open Enrollment") The reason it's worthwhile for Pittsfield residents to look at this presentation is that it addresses schools with enrollments near 500 students. That's Pittsfield. Superintendent Broadrick looked at the declining birth rate which translates into declining enrollment for schools and he graphed an enrollment projection for Barnstead and Alton over the next ten years. He also graphed the declining confidence of Americans in the public school system at the national level and at the local level. He rightfully referred to families as "consumers of education." There are any number of ways students can learn these days! There is no denying the seismic shift in the way we do K-12 education now. The NH funding model needs to catch up. Pittsfield has an opportunity to step up and shape that funding discussion with creativity and foresight by researching how other states are making school choice work, not just closing its eyes to the realities around it. Just as the recently revived 30 year old Claremont case in NH (which Pittsfield school district contributed to) makes a distinction between wealthy school districts and poorer school districts, the fund-the-student-not-the-system points to the difference between wealthy families and middle/lower income families. Wealthy families always had school choice. It's time to fund-the-student-not-the-system so middle/lower income families will have more school choice for their children. Diane Rider

#### To the Readers of the Post

I am writing to support Clayton Wood and Cyril Aures for state representative. We need to send them back to Concord on November 5th. They are very kind and approachable gentlemen who are very good at listening to their constituents, as well as being wonderful family men.

Wood and Aures have a 100% attendance score in the legislature and I really appreciate the transparency exhibited in the reports posted in the Pittsfield Post. They have gotten legislation passed that (1) expands educational choice – standing with parents and their children, (2) preserving girls' sports so girls don't have to play against guys, (3) standing for innocent, voiceless, unborn life and their mothers, (4) protecting and bolstering our sacred right to vote, (5) balancing our state budget and being frugal with our money and keeping our taxes low. And the list could go on.

In an age where the mainstream has drifted hard to the left, it is good for us to have representatives who not only have integrity but also don't waver from self-evident truth, protect the innocent, protect freedom of choice, and protect our Constitution. The values that Clayton and Cyril stand for are what makes New Hampshire stand out. Let's keep New Hampshire a great state! Vote on November 5th.

Thank you, Willie Matras

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

## Finding Common Ground Jim Allard & Sally Kelly for State Reps



## **YOUR VOICE** for Pittsfield and Chichester!

- Lower property taxes
- No sales or income tax
- School funding reform
- Fiscal responsibility
- Protection of human rights
- Renewable energy
- Preserving NH's reproductive law
- Affordable housing

## 2 Parties, 1 Purpose SallyAndJim.com

Paid for by Sally Kelly for State Rep

#### To the Readers of the Post

How refreshing to see two people representing two different political affiliations working together to represent us. Sally Kelly and Jim Allard are doing just that. They will fight to protect human rights and reproductive freedom. Fiscally they are in favor of lower property taxes, no sales or income taxes and promoting affordable housing. They will work to reform school funding, funding which is a major cause of our ever increasing property taxes.

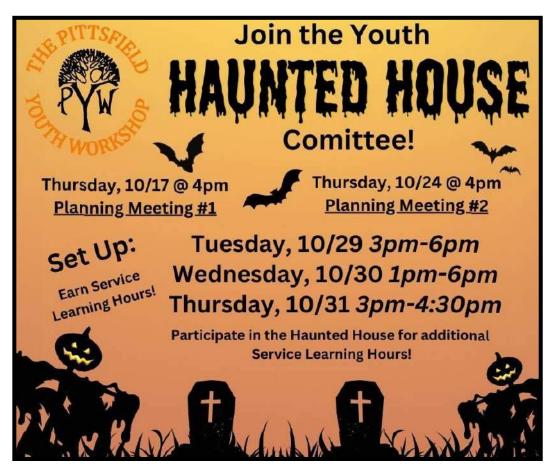
With Jim and Sally you get straight talk and a genuine concern for all their constituents.

Diana Westgate, registered voter in Pittsfield

#### Stop the Gridlock

As we close in on voting day, Tuesday, November 5, uniting our citizens is more important than ever. To elect moderate candidates from two parties is a clever and common-sense idea. Extremists in far-left and far-right groups have caused a division in our state and our country. I proudly support Democrat Sally Kelly from Chichester and Independent Jim Allard from Pittsfield for the NH House. Jim and Sally have shown they can agree on some important issues. I, too, agree that we need to lower property taxes, to respect individual freedoms and personal choices and to protect our environment now and for our children and grandchildren. Moreover, I agree that we need to get along with each other, despite being from different political parties.

Sally and Jim are prepared to work together with their fellow NH representatives to solve issues important to us in District 13 and across New Hampshire. We see frequent gridlock between parties in our state and country due to extremism. Gridlock creates division and makes matters worse, with issues remaining unresolved. Sending Sally and Jim to the Statehouse would be a great first step toward solving issues confronting us today. With steady and honest negotiation, we can stop the gridlock and pass meaningful legislation. Their website is <u>www.sallyandjim.com</u> *Leslie Lesmerises* 



### **Republican and Independent Voters BEWARE!**

Sally Kelly and Jim Allard are teaming up again to try to get liberal Sally Kelly elected.

While in the NH House, Sally Kelly voted to raise and/or create over 90 taxes. AND Sally Kelly NEVER voted against Democrat leadership!

Sally claims she is a moderate but her voting record is extreme.

#### Consider this:

#### Sally Kelly loves to increase your taxes:

- Voted to increase small business taxes HB1661
- Voted to create a campground tax HB2
- Voted to create an estate tax HB450
- Voted to create a gambling tax HB 1594
- Voted to create an electric generation tax SB450
- Voted to increase NH's gas tax twice 15 cents and 12 cents per gallon (HB644/612)
- Voted to increase motor vehicle registration fees HB 1588
- Voted to increase the insurance premium tax SB450
- Voted to increase the tobacco tax SB450
- Voted to reduce contribution to town pensions, raising property taxes \$27million HB2
- Voted to eliminate Rooms & Meals tax revenue sharing with towns SB450/1128
- Voted against allowing towns to impose spending caps HB1522

#### Sally Kelly consistently supports ultra-liberal social policies:

- Voted to allow illegals to collect compensation from the victim's assistance fund HB601
- Voted against allowing NH residents to purchase drugs from Canada HB1444
- Voted for the "bathroom bill", allowing mixed bathroom use in schools HB415
- Voted against a bill requiring parental notification for a minor child's abortion HB531
- Voted against a bill that would hold a murderer liable for killing an unborn child HB1644
- Voted to ban guns from the NH House complex for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in history.
- Voted to repeal the education tax credit that provides low-income scholarships HB370
- Voted to eliminate secret ballots in unions HB500

#### Vote CLAYTON WOOD & CYRIL AURES on November 5

Paid for by Clayton Wood - Cyril Aures - Katrina Giuda - Brandon Giuda

#### A LEOPARD CAN'T CHANGE IT'S SPOTS. THE VOTING RECORD TELLS THE TALE!

VOTED TO RAISE THE NH GAS TAX -(HB644) AND HB 617 VOTED TO RAISE VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES -HB1588 VOTED TO INCREASE THE TOBACCO TAX - SB450 VOTED TO CREATE AN ESTATE TAX - SB450 VOTED TO CREATE AN ELECTRIC TAX - SB450 VOTED TO RAISE THE INSURANCE TAX- SB450 VOTED TO CREATE A GAMBLING TAX- HB1594 VOTED TO CREATE A MD/OR INCREASE OVER 30 TAXES, INCLUDING A CAMPGROUND TAX - HB2 VOTED TO CREATE A SMALL BUSINESS INCOME TAX - HB1661 I will lower taxes! I will work hand in hand with other parties



Paid for by ClaytonCyril4House.com

NEWS FROM YOUR STATE HOUSE. WHAT'S AHEAD?

The democrats bill HB1492, if passed will re-instate the interest & dividends tax, taking \$160 million out of your pockets.

If the Interest & Dividnds Tax is not RE-INSTATED by the democrats it will end at midnight 31 Dec. 2024 Democrats will force taxes on NH by overspending, creating the percieved need for a sales tax and an income tax! crossing the aisle. Voted to create and/ or raise over 90 taxes! WHAT'S BEHIND?

Sununu vetoed income tax legislation passed by the democrats in 2020 that was hidden in a parental leave bill.

In 2011, after several years of the Democrat's reign, NH was left with \$800mil in debt.

We've been working for the NH way: Local Control - Protecting Women in Sports/Privacy/Fairness Parental/Child Rights -Common Sense Legislation - No Sales Tax No Income Tax - NH Constitutional Liberties Sanctuary Cities? ONLY in Mass!

Remember this, "We always do what we say & we say what we do!"

> Donate at tiny·cc/nw09zz