

# PITTSFIELD POST

A FREE WEEKLY PRODUCTION BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

The Post will not be published on December 30.

December 23 and 30, 2020

The deadline for publication on January 6 is 10am on December 31.

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year" - Charles Dickens



## "In a December 1933 letter to Ruth May Staniels"

By Clifton S. Cram [1905 – 1986]

Your splendid letter came, dear,  
And I'm mighty glad to hear  
That things are going better,  
And you all have good cheer.

It's hard to have good cheer of  
course  
When things are going wrong,  
But I suppose we have to have  
those things  
To make us strong.

Without them we would grow so  
weak  
We'd hardly know a thing.  
It sometimes takes real trouble  
To develop anything.

Just take for instance,  
Birches that grow with lots of  
space-  
They send out branches  
everywhere  
To scratch a fella's face.

But those that grow together  
With hardly room to see  
The Sun above, keep struggling,  
And make a worthwhile tree.

Their whole life's effort  
Isn't spent on froth and limbs and  
frill-  
Their one ambition seems to be  
To grow yet higher still.

However for each birch  
That grows fullest height,  
Three others in that crowded space  
Get choked and then lose sight

Of all the sun's rays shining,  
And death's their final fee.  
I've often laid and wondered  
Which kind of birch I'd be!



Clifton and Ruth Cram in the early 1950s



Clifton, ten years older than Ruth, wrote this poem when she was a senior at Concord High School. In a previous letter, she had also insisted he write a jingle for her. He obliged and towards the end of this letter he penned,

"If, after this, you ever ask to have me write a jingle,  
I'll promptly turn you 'tummy down' and then apply a shingle."

Married during the flood of 1936, Clifton was on active duty in the National Guard and went AWOL to get married. This made headline news in national newspapers. Due to the 'National News' his C.O. didn't push the AWOL issue.

Ruth made headlines in the Suncook Valley Sun while an office manager at Universal Label in Pittsfield. She was on her way back from the bank with the cash payroll, when two males jumped into her car on each side of her and forced her to the middle. They demanded the money and she told them she had already paid everyone. Her skirt was actually covering the money in the bag on the floor. They drove down around Clark Street and she was able to talk them out of the car.

They both had a strong Christian faith, which was evident in their care of other people. Feeling that God had provided them with their home, they opened it up to those in need and to eight foster children. It was not uncommon to have 25 or more people at Thanksgiving Dinner. Jean Cram

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

**Tuesday January 5, 9-11am** The Infant Toddler Diaper Pantry, through the First Congregational Church. We ask that you please call 435-7471 when you arrive in the parking lot. Clients will not be able to enter the Church at this time. Weather permitting, we will place your diapers and wipes in a bag with your name attached and place it on a table in the parking lot. If the weather is not permitting, we will bring the product to you. Please use the parking lot off Chestnut Street. Thank you for your understanding as we continue to navigate through this pandemic.

**The Greater Pittsfield Chamber of Commerce** would like to THANK the Pittsfield Fire Department, Police Department, and especially SANTA BOB for helping to kick-off the Holiday Season in Pittsfield. Hopefully everyone caught a glimpse of SANTA as he paraded around town. Thank you, also to Joe Darrah for installing the Holiday banners; to Louie Houle for decorating the trees and to Fuzz Freese for decorating the Bandstand. Happy Holidays to all!!

**Emergency Information Station AM 1640** Pittsfield's Emergency Management team and NH Homeland Security have created AM radio station 1640. In the event of an emergency, they will broadcast important information over this station. Residents are encouraged to set this channel on the radio.

**First Congregational Church** - sadly there will not be a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at the First Congregational Church this year due to COVID-19. You can see a virtual service on the church's website, [www.pittsfieldcc.org](http://www.pittsfieldcc.org), on December 24. May the blessings of this holy season be yours now and in the year ahead. Sunday services continue at 10 am, 24 Main Street.

The **2021 Pittsfield Historical Society** calendars may be purchased at the town hall or the Josiah Carpenter Library for \$15.00 each. The theme of the 2021 calendar is "Before & After" – 28 pictures of old buildings in town and how they have changed. For more information contact Fuzz Freese at (603) 848-4488.

For the month of December, **Pittsfield Elementary School PTO** will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the Hannaford store located at 174 First NH Turnpike, Northwood NH.

**Pittsfield High School Alumni Association** sent its annual request for donations to support the scholarship fund for graduating seniors. If you did

not receive a newsletter, please send your name and address to the Alumni email at [phsalumni@pittsfieldnhschools.org](mailto:phsalumni@pittsfieldnhschools.org). Donations may be made by going to [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) and send your donation to [phsalumni@pittsfieldnhschools.org](mailto:phsalumni@pittsfieldnhschools.org). Thank you in advance!

**Pre-Order PMHS or PES yearbook for the 2020-21 year** at <https://yearbookforever.com>. This year's PMHS book will be \$50 and the PES book will be \$17. Online ordering is encouraged for it's ease and convenience. This year's class has come up with some creative ways to cover this unusual year. They are documenting the ways everyone is spending the year, as well as covering as many events as they have available! If you are a parent/guardian of a high school senior or a moving up 5th grader please keep an eye out for email that will give you an option to put in a message to your student. If you have any questions at all please email yearbook advisor Jennifer Massey at [jemassey@pittsfieldnhschools.org](mailto:jemassey@pittsfieldnhschools.org)

**Happy Birthday** wishes to Rich Hillsgrove on Sunday! A special Happy Birthday wish to my nephew, Tim Riel on Wednesday. I hope you have a fabulous day!

I would like to wish everyone a **Happy Holiday Season** - However you are able to spend your holidays this year- be safe, healthy and thankful!

### Double Word Puzzle #17 by Diana Westgate

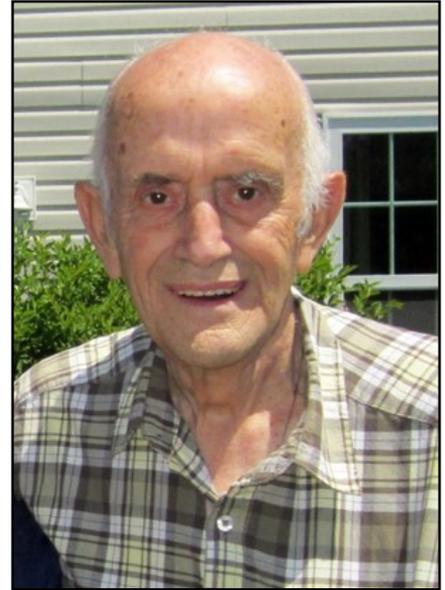
Find the word that satisfies both definitions.

1. Angry \_\_\_\_\_  
Religious symbol
2. Type of bird \_\_\_\_\_ Boast
3. Not limp \_\_\_\_\_  
Potato chip (Br.)
4. Farm animal \_\_\_\_\_  
Frighten with threats
5. Street side \_\_\_\_\_ Bridle bit
6. Mild swear word \_\_\_\_\_  
Sewing activity
7. Mid-eastern fruit \_\_\_\_\_  
Calendar entry
8. Ship level \_\_\_\_\_ Knock down
9. College goal \_\_\_\_\_  
Temperature unit
10. Heavily populated \_\_\_\_\_  
Slow to comprehend

Can you find the answers?

## Henry F. Gray

Henry F. Gray, 88, known as “Bumpa” to many, died from COVID-19 complications on December 16, 2020. He was born in Barnstead Parade (the building next to the Post Office, as he would tell us) on September 17, 1932, the youngest child of Edward and Ada Gray. He was a 1950 graduate of Pittsfield High School. Henry served in the US Army during the Korean conflict and was a lifelong member of American Legion Post #75 in Pittsfield. In 1951, he married his high school sweetheart and the love of his life, Shirley Frenette, and was married to her for the next 68 years. The couple resided in Pittsfield, and together owned and operated Gray’s Department Store. Henry was elected and served a term as Pittsfield’s Tax Collector in the 1970’s. He was a communicant of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Pittsfield. Henry and Shirley later moved to Kings Towne Park in Epsom, where they spent their retirement years. In 2018, they moved to the John H. Whitaker Place Assisted Living facility in Penacook. Henry transitioned to Pleasant View Center in Concord after Shirley’s death in November, 2019.



Henry was an avid hunter, candlepin bowler, and enjoyed playing horseshoes and watching the Red Sox. He was a curious man who loved to question why; he loved to dance and sing and be silly, and make others laugh whenever he could. Henry was a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, and will be deeply missed. His light has gone out, but his memory will shine forever in our hearts.

## Holiday Bags for Seniors - Meals on Wheels

The Pittsfield Youth Workshop and St. Stephens Episcopal Church collaborated this year to provide 65 holiday bags for the recipients of the Meals on Wheels Program (MOW).

Together we were able to provide many essential items such as masks, hand sanitizer, flashlights and toiletries that are important for each and every one of us to have. Along with some of the essentials we provided a few goodies!

After the bags were decorated and filled they were dropped off to the Pittsfield Senior Center where the driver of the MOW program will deliver a hot meal and the holiday bag.

PYW has been providing these heartfelt bags with help from so many wonderful community members for 10 years! With all the wonderful support, we hope to be able to continue it for many years to come.

It seems that when the world is most challenging, it can also bring out the best in all of us... A BIG THANK YOU to all the parishioners at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, the youth at PYW and the Pittsfield Senior Center for their generous donations and kindhearted work in making this possible. *Pittsfield Youth Workshop*





## Cook's Corner Nachos

I recognize that Santa will be here in a few days and you were probably expecting to see a recipe for a traditional holiday dish. But how are we feeling about nachos? It's time to lighten up, take a break from the seasonal madness (and the weather) and put out a stunning party platter of deliciousness that everyone will love! Please accept my very best wishes to you and your loved ones for a wonderful holiday.

- 1 to 1½ lbs ground beef
- ¼ cup sliced green onions, or yellow onions
- 1 cup taco sauce
- ¼ tsp garlic powder
- ¼ tsp cumin
- Fresh ground pepper
- 1 (15 oz) can kidney or black beans, drained
- Guacamole (optional)
- 8 oz frozen corn, thawed
- 3 cups shredded iceberg lettuce
- 1 cup chopped tomato
- 1 to 1½ cup shredded cheddar cheese
- Jalapeno slices (optional)
- Salsa
- Sour cream
- 1 bag of tortilla chips

Cook the meat and the onions in a large skillet. Drain well and return the mixture to the pan. Add taco sauce, garlic powder, cumin, a few grinds of black pepper, the beans and the corn. Stir to combine and cook until warmed through.

Place chips on a large platter. Top with the meat mixture, then lettuce, then tomatoes, then cheese. Plop salsa, sour cream, guacamole (if using) and jalapenos (if using) in strategic locations all around Mount Nacho.

Grab a fistful of extra napkins, ask your Sweetheart to grab you an ice cold adult beverage, throw some vintage Santana on your favorite music device and dig in! Since you only used 1 pan and 1 platter, it's completely acceptable that you would expect others to handle the clean-up. Leaving you more time for another adult beverage and more music. **Have a "Merry Merry"!** *MP Christakos*

## JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Monday 11am-2pm, 4-6pm</b> Pittsfield Food Pantry<br/> <b>10am-6pm</b> Josiah Carpenter Library<br/> <b>11am-7pm</b> Town Hall</p> <p><b>Tuesday 2pm-6pm</b> Josiah Carpenter Library<br/> <b>10am-4pm</b> Pittsfield Clothes Closet<br/> <b>8am-4pm</b> Town Hall</p> <p><b>Wednesday 2pm-6pm</b> Josiah Carpenter Library<br/> <b>10-4pm</b> Pittsfield Clothes Closet<br/> <b>1-4pm</b> Town Hall</p> <p><b>Thursday 11am-2pm</b> Pittsfield Food Pantry<br/> <b>10am-6pm</b> Josiah Carpenter Library<br/> <b>8am-4pm</b> Town Hall</p> <p><b>Friday 8am-4pm</b> Town Hall</p> <p><b>Saturday 10am-2pm</b> Josiah Carpenter Library<br/> <b>10am-3pm</b> Pittsfield Clothes Closet</p> <p><b>4 Monday</b> School District Reopens, Holiday Break Ends<br/> <b>7:30 pm</b> American Legion Peterson Cram Post 75 Meeting, Town Hall</p> <p><b>5 Tuesday 9-11am</b> Diaper Pantry, First Congregational Church</p> <p><b>6 Wednesday 6-8pm</b> Budget Committee Meeting, Town Hall</p> <p><b>7 Thursday 5:30pm</b>, School Board Meeting, PMHS Lecture Hall and public access via Zoom</p> <p><b>11 Monday 6pm</b> Pittsfield Elementary Parent Teacher Organization Meeting via Zoom</p> <p><b>12 Tuesday 6pm</b> Selectboard Meeting, Town Hall<br/> <b>6:15pm</b> Parks and Recreation Meeting, Bicentennial Room, Pittsfield Community Center</p> | <p><b>13 Wednesday 6-8pm</b> Budget Committee Meeting, Town Hall</p> <p><b>14 Thursday 7pm</b> Planning Board Meeting, Town Hall<br/> <b>7pm</b> Public Budget Hearing, PMHS Lecture Hall</p> <p><b>15 Friday 7pm</b> Snow Date Public Budget Hearing, PMHS Lecture Hall</p> <p><b>16 Saturday</b> The Josiah Carpenter Library will be closed</p> <p><b>18 Monday</b> The Josiah Carpenter Library, School District and Town Hall will be closed</p> <p><b>19 Tuesday 9-11am</b> Diaper Pantry, First Congregational Church<br/> <b>4:30-6pm</b> Pittsfield High School Tuition Study Committee Meeting via Zoom<br/> <b>6pm</b> Budget Committee Meeting, Town Hall</p> <p><b>20 Wednesday</b> First Day to file to be a Town or School District candidate<br/> <b>5pm</b> Library Trustees Meeting, Josiah Carpenter Library<br/> <b>6-8pm</b> Budget Committee Meeting, Town Hall</p> <p><b>21 Thursday 5:30pm</b>, School Board Meeting, PMHS Lecture Hall and public access via Zoom</p> <p><b>22 Friday 10am</b> Pittsfield Post Volunteers Meeting, Bicentennial Room, Pittsfield Community Center</p> <p><b>26 Tuesday 6pm</b> Selectboard Meeting, Town Hall</p> <p><b>28 Thursday 7pm</b> Conservation Commission Meeting, Town Hall</p> <p><b>29 Friday</b> Last day to file to be a Town or School District candidate</p> |
|---|--|



## New Year Greetings

2020 has certainly been memorable, and the entire world is eager for 2021. What do you wish for in Pittsfield for the New Year? What do you wish you could share with friends and family? Send your message to the *Post!*

In January we think it would be wonderful to publish a *flurry* of greetings to ring in the new year. We're really looking forward to hearing from you, The Post Volunteers  
[pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org](mailto:pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org)

**Classifieds**  
**Firewood**

Dry 16" cut & split \$325 or 19" to 22" \$325 a cord. 603-435-9385

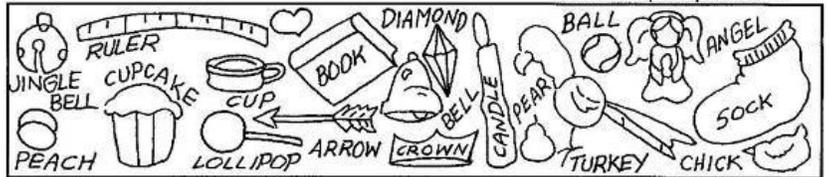
**2004 Ford F-150**

2004 Ford F-150 Ext. Cab Pick-up for Sale \$1500.00 or B/O, Call 603-545-8990

**Answers to Double Word Puzzle #17**

1. Angry – **cross** – Religious symbol
2. Type of bird – **crow** – Boast
3. Not limp – **crisp** – Potato chip (Br.)
4. Farm animal – **cow** – Frighten with threats
5. Street side – **curb** – Bridle bit
6. Mind swear word – **darn** – Sewing activity
7. Mid-eastern fruit – **date** – Calendar entry
8. Ship level – **deck** – Knock down
9. College goal – **degree** – Temperature unit
10. Heavily populated – **dense** – Slow to comprehend

**Hidden Pictures**



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Please support the **Pittsfield Post**. Checks may be made out to Pittsfield Center Development Corporation, P.O. Box 253, Pittsfield, NH 03263. Donations are tax-deductible. Donations above \$50.00 may be acknowledged as Sponsor of the Week. Go to [www.pittsfieldpost.org](http://www.pittsfieldpost.org) to download a donation form.



*Come and join us as we  
celebrate our faith in God,  
our freedom, and a loving  
fellowship with each other.*

*Sunday worship at 10 a.m.*

**First Congregational  
Church of Pittsfield**

24 Main Street  
Phone 435-7471



# Christmas Meals and Pies

Please Pre-Order  
Meals or Pies 435-6222

## Christmas Meals

Chicken Cordon Bleu \$19.95 Inc. Tax

Prime Rib \$24.95 Inc. Tax

Veggie • Biscuit

Scalloped or Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Dessert

Pre-order /  
Prepay to  
receive New  
Year's Eve  
Discounts

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\$16.00 Inc. Tax

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Chocolate Cream

Pumpkin Apple Pecan Boston Cream

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***and Order Your Christmas Flowers!!***