

# PITTSFIELD POST

A FREE WEEKLY PRODUCTION BY COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS



"Life is like a balloon. If you never let yourself go, you will never know how far you can rise". *Linda Poindexter* **August 2, 2023**

## Some People Just Like to Get Things Done

A rotary club seems an unlikely place for people to set aside their differences and get things done, but this is exactly the experience writer John Clayton found in his small town.



*Dear Readers: To celebrate balloon rally and service of the Suncook Valley Rotary Club, the POST includes this article for your reading pleasure.*

Although I've lived in a small western town for 30 years now, I have never known much about one of its fundamental institutions, the service club. Many small-town residents still center their lives on Lions, Elks, Rotary or similar organizations.

Not me: I'm not a joiner. Yet as our national culture moves farther away from such settings for broad discussions, I worry that I'm part of the problem.

A while ago when I was asked to speak at our local Rotary Club, I hesitated, picturing white guys networking with each other and complaining about newcomers. But I had published a book, and publishers instruct authors to market wherever you can.

Upon arrival, I cataloged the changes since my last Rotary visit decades ago: The president was a 20-something woman, we ordered off a menu, and people seemed less guarded.

Our local Rotary, I learned, was known as relatively liberal, and some of the older men seemed pretty vigorous. The faces reflected the town's lily-white complexion, but I noticed that the room contained Republicans and Democrats, evangelicals and atheists, entrepreneurs and socialist-leaning nonprofit workers, feminists and fans of traditional gender roles.

Of course we didn't talk about any of that. As one man said, the point of the club was to avoid ideology in order to focus on projects that help people. Perhaps that's why they'd invited an author – to be supportive of local literature.

So we talked about something close to my heart, and as it turned out, to theirs. My book, *Natural Rivals*, chronicles a 1890s collaboration between Sierra Club founder John Muir and U.S. Forest Service founder Gifford Pinchot. The two men are often seen as enemies: Muir's preservation philosophy dictated a hands-off policy to nature, while Pinchot advocated aggressive management of natural resources to provide for human needs.

So when Muir and Pinchot camped together in 1896, alongside Montana's Lake McDonald in what would later become Glacier National Park, did they argue about whether to cut trees or dam valleys? No. They set aside their ideological differences to focus on a bigger threat. **See Rotary on page 8.**

## Attention

Route 107 roadwork and road closure - Monday, August 7, for up to 5 days; work zone will be located between the junctions of Berry Pond Road and True Road.

## Town Crier

To have an event included in this column, call or email Andi Riel at 603-435-6346 or [pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com](mailto:pittsfieldtowncrier@hotmail.com)

**Congratulations** to Leslie & Harry Vogt on being selected as the 2023 Pittsfield Citizens of the Year! Both Leslie and Harry have been involved in many community committees and organizations. Thank you to Leslie & Harry for all you have done and all you still do to help make Pittsfield a better place to live!

**Hot Air Balloon Rally Weekend**, Aug 4, 5 & 6.

[suncookvalleyrotary.org/.../hot-air.../volunteers](https://suncookvalleyrotary.org/.../hot-air.../volunteers) to sign up to help. The boat ramp at Drake Field will be closed from Friday, Aug. 4, through Sunday, Aug. 6, during the Hot Air Balloon Rally. The ramp is closed for public safety reasons and in cooperation with NH Fish and Game.

**Cow Chip Bingo** tickets are available. \$500 at first drop! Proceeds to benefit Victory Workers 4-H club. Tickets are: \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The event will be held at Drake Field on Sunday, Aug. 6, at 9am on Balloon Rally Weekend. For information or to purchase tickets, contact Pam Clattenburg at 603-435-0772 or Melissa Babcock at 603-496-3928.

**PES PTO Cornhole Tournament** will be held on Sat, Aug. 5, at 1pm at the Drake Field Tennis Courts. There are two tournaments – “The Backyard Bag Toss”, registration cost \$25 and cash prizes to 1st & 2nd winners, and “League Champs Compete”, registration cost \$50 per team and cash prizes to 1st, 2nd, & 3rd winners. Registration is at noon – please email [PTO@sau51.org](mailto:PTO@sau51.org) or Scoreholio App. Thank you to our sponsors from the Globe Community Fund.

**The “Anything That Floats River Raft Regatta Race”** will be held on Saturday, Aug. 5, during Balloon Rally Weekend at 12:30pm at the Barnstead Rd Boat Launch. Info:

<https://form.jotform.com/231816645151151>

Must be at least 13 years old. CASH prizes for the winners (1st-\$150, 2nd-\$100, 3rd-\$50)

**Frank H. Donovan 5K race** Sunday, Aug. 6 9am at Drake Field Gazebo. \$100 cash prizes for the top male and female runner! Awards in each age category. *Online registration (\$20) closes at noon on Thursday, August 3rd. Registration available starting at 8:00 am raceday at the gazebo Drake Field, \$25 cash only. More info?* Keith and Libby Kun at [frank5krun@gmail.com](mailto:frank5krun@gmail.com) or 603-505-1635

**The Senior Center** is open again! We will be open on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 8am–1pm. For more information or if you have questions, call 603-435-8482.

**The Dowboro Farm Farmstand** is open. The kids from the Victory Workers 4-H club and others have had a couple of months off and are bringing back some of your favorite items and have been working on some new surprises too. Stop in at 615 Dowboro Road, Pittsfield. Hours are Thursday-Saturday, 9:30am-6pm & Sunday, 10:30am-4pm.

**Are you a Target shopper?** PYW has been chosen as a nonprofit partner and we could use your votes. A share of \$15,000 will be divided between five worthy nonprofits, based on the number of votes each receives. Vote by Sept. 30. More info can be found at [www.target.com/circle](http://www.target.com/circle)

**The Pittsfield Players** will hold auditions for their fall production, “SEUSSICAL – THE MUSICAL” on Sunday, Aug. 6, and Monday, Aug. 7, at 7pm at the Scenic Theatre, Depot Street. See [www.pittsfieldplayers.org](http://www.pittsfieldplayers.org) for more information about the auditions or email [general@pittsfieldplayers.org](mailto:general@pittsfieldplayers.org)

**The American Legion Peterson Cram Post 75** will meet on Mon, Aug. 7, at 6:30pm at the Town Hall.

**The 2023 Varsity Girls Alumni Soccer Game** is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 20, at Drake Field. Kick off will be at noon and all female alumni soccer players are encouraged to attend.

**THE PITTSFIELD OLD HOME DAY COMMITTEE** would like to thank everyone who helped to make this year’s event such a success. My official thank you will be in next week’s column.

### **PITTSFIELD OLD HOME DAY PARADE WINNERS!**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Pittsfield Old Home Day Parade and thank you to our judge, Fallon Reed. The winners of the 2023 Pittsfield Old Home Day Parade are: YOUTH DIVISION: First Place - VICTORY WORKERS 4-H CLUB; Second Place - JOSIAH CARPENTER LIBRARY; Third Place - F.B. ARGUE RECREATION (Pool). OPEN DIVISION: First Place - BLAKES VIEW FARM; Second Place - PATH of the SAMURAI; Third Place - MATRAS MAPLE. Thank you to Stan Bailey, emcee for the parade, and to Mark Riel for organizing the parade.



## Cook's Corner

### Coconut Dream Cake

Boxed cake mix and instant pudding – what could go wrong? Here's a delicious summertime dessert cake. It's light and

refreshing and super easy to pull together. If you make it in advance of serving, keep it in the fridge so it stays nice and chilled. Enjoy!

1 can (20 oz) unsweetened, crushed pineapple

1 pkg yellow cake mix (regular size)

3 large eggs

½ cup vegetable oil

¼ cup water

1 pkg (8 oz) cream cheese, softened

1 cup cold, 2% milk

1 pkg (3 to 4 oz) instant vanilla pudding mix

1 carton (8 oz) frozen whipped topping, thawed

½ cup chopped walnuts

1/3 cup flaked coconut

Heat oven to 350. Drain the pineapple, reserving 1 cup juice. Set pineapple aside. In a large bowl, combine cake mix, eggs, oil, water and reserved pineapple juice. Beat on low for 30 seconds, then beat on medium for 2 minutes. Transfer batter to a greased 15 x 10 x 1 baking pan.

Bake until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean, about 15 to 18 minutes. Cool on a wire rack.

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy. Gradually beat in the milk and pudding mix until well blended; fold in reserved pineapple. Spread over the cake, then top with the thawed whipped topping, then top with the walnuts and coconut.

**Fire Wood**  
**16" CUT, SPLIT & DELIVERED**

- Pine (Campfire)
- Dry Hardwood

**(603) 906-2444**  
 Center Barnstead, NH

2



Cyril and I received notice from the NH DOT that we need to share with our constituents. Culvert replacement work is planned on NH Route 107 in Pittsfield that will require a full-time closure of a section of Route 107 for five days. The work will begin on Monday, Aug.7, at 8:30am, and the work zone is located between the junctions of Berry Pond Road and True Road.

A detour for through traffic will be in place from the junction of Route 4 in Northwood to the junction of Route 28 in Pittsfield. Through traffic will be detoured via Route 4 & Route 28. Detour signs will be installed to direct traffic around the closure. Motorists are encouraged to sign up for free, real-time construction and traffic-related messages (text or email) from <https://newengland511.org/>

Cyril and I would like to thank everyone who reached out to us on Pittsfield's Old Home Day. I don't remember a larger attendance and a more organized event. A big thank you to all who worked on organizing the event. Sunny Valley, our new GOP mascot, was a big hit with the children. We have been enjoying the downtime since the end of the 2023 session. There have still been special reasons to go to Concord that we will be sharing with you in the coming weeks. We are pleased to report that the economy of our great state is well. At the end of the fiscal year in June, the state posted a surplus of \$538.9 million. At the end of this month, a new record low unemployment rate of 1.8%. NH is WORKING!

Cyril and I would like to thank Selectman Gerard LeDuc for putting his life on hold to join the military and thank him, as well as all veterans, for serving their country.

God bless you and have a wonderful summer. Your Representatives *Clayton Wood and Cyril Aures*.

**Village Tech** 603.717.8363  
 — BUILT FOR YOU —

- Local Computer Repairs & Upgrades
- Custom Computer Builds
- Home Network Analysis & Setup
- Computer Cleaning

*If you have a computer problem, we can help.*

[www.VillageTech.net](http://www.VillageTech.net)

3

## Old Home Day Parade Pictures



Victory Workers 4-H



NH House Representatives Cyril Aures and Clayton Wood

Business Cards • Forms • Business Checks • Brochures  
 Color Copies • Stationery • Graphic Design • Magnets  
 Programs • Raffle Tickets • Rubber Stamps  
 Wedding Invitations and Accessories • Bookmarks

Full Color: Cards • Brochures • Flyers • Labels • Postcards  
 Customized Promotional Items • Banners • Yard Signs

**GRANITE IMAGE**  
 940 Suncook Valley Hwy • PO Box 683  
 Epsom, NH 03234 • 603-736-6056  
 print@granite-image.com • www.granite-image.com

**MATRAS SMALL ENGINE REPAIR**

TUNE-UPS, REBUILDS, REPAIRS  
 MOWERS, SNOWBLOWERS, GENERATORS,  
 TILLERS, SAWS, ETC

ASA MATRAS

821 CATAMOUNT RD PITTSFIELD NH 03263  
 HOME 603-435-8214 CELL 603-312-6909

**PICKUP / DELIVERY AVAILABLE**

## Pittsfield's Points to Ponder "Windmills on Your Mind"

by Kathy Holmes, resident of Chichester  
The residents of Pittsfield are being asked to consider putting up a wind turbine using the school's 501c in fundraising. While this may provide many with a good feeling about "doing something" for the environment, it raises concerns the community needs to be aware of. Two issues this article will deal with is a return on investment and the dangers with lithium batteries.

- Dylan Sargent of the Pittsfield Fire Dept. states neither water nor foam will put out fires that erupt from lithium batteries. Right now, Pittsfield doesn't have what is required to put them out. At best they can contain them for 6-8 hrs.
- Pittsfield's own MIT research scientist, Clayton Wood, states wind energy is intermittent. If the wind speed is less than 5mph, there is no power. The average wind speed for Pittsfield in July was 4.8mph. Also, energy from wind must be converted to other forms and each time it is converted to something usable or for storage in a battery, it loses "power". So the optimum return on investment that could've been 8 yrs needs to have the battery replaced by then at a significant cost. Last point, disposal was a HUGE eye-opener.
- Neither BCEP nor the NH Dept of Envr. Services take these batteries. The latter states you would have to get the place you bought it from to take it back. No one wants these toxic batteries in their systems.
- I've "pointed" out some major problems but certainly not all. I've not touched on maintenance, replacement parts at what cost, where lithium batteries come from and the child slave labor used in gathering the necessary rare earth elements.

Letters to the Post are the opinion of the Author

4



**Cindy's**  
HAIR AFFAIR 

603-435-6711  
1 Depot Street  
Pittsfield, NH 03263  
cell: 603-856-3101  
cindyshairaffair2020@gmail.com

## PITTSFIELD INSURANCE AGENCY

3 LEAVITT RD

PITTSFIELD NH 03263

603-435-7262

[PITTSFIELDINSURANCE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PITTSFIELDINSURANCE@GMAIL.COM)

[PITTSFIELDINSURANCEAGENCY.COM](http://PITTSFIELDINSURANCEAGENCY.COM)

WE TREAT EVERY CUSTOMER  
LIKE THEY ARE OUR ONLY  
CUSTOMER

CALL FOR YOUR NO OBLIGATION QUOTE

5

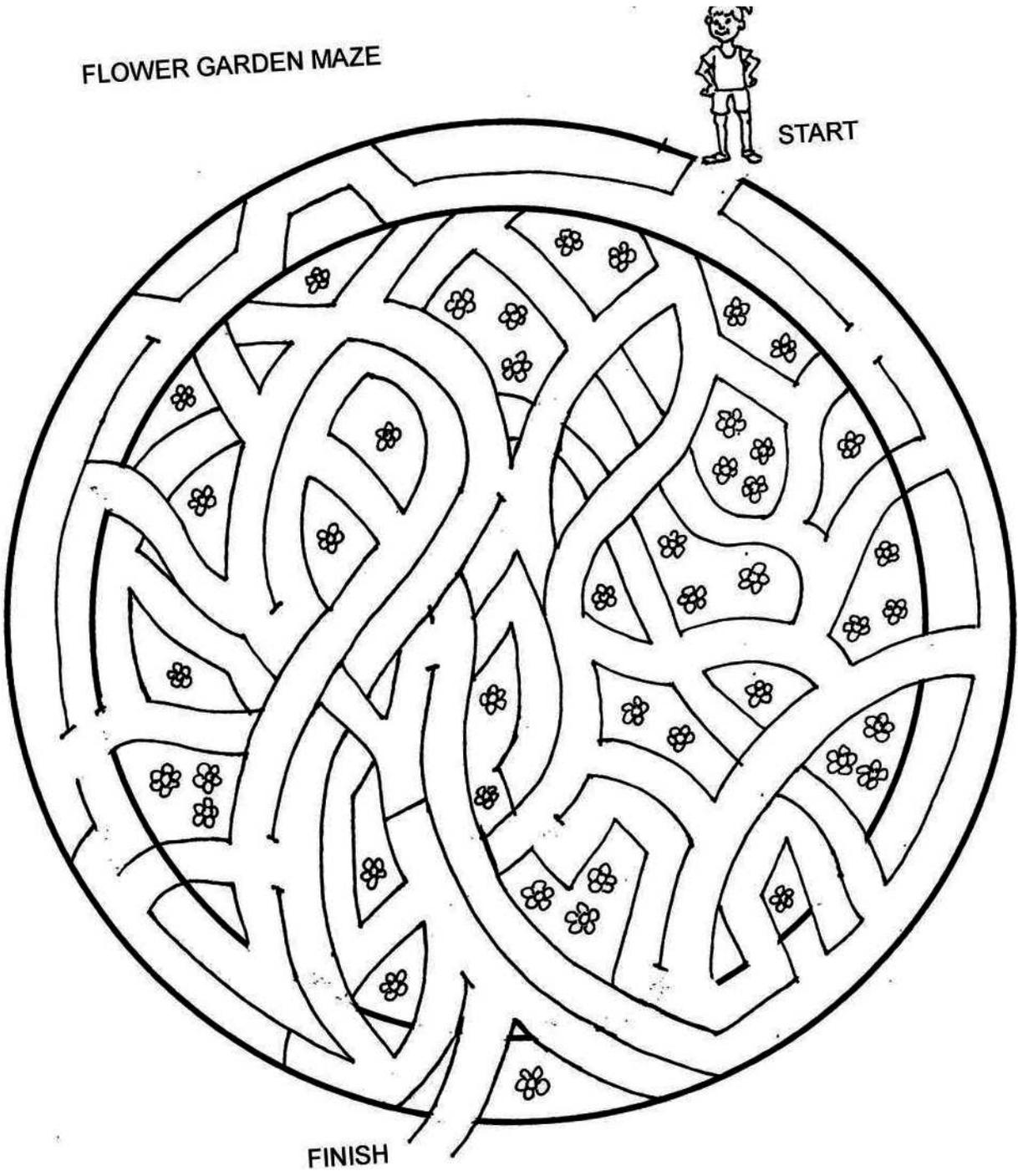
**Word Change by Letter Puzzle #1** By Diana Westgate, Answer on page 8.

Turn the word **Ship** into the word **Boat** in four steps. Change one letter in each word, rearranging the order of the letters if necessary. Use the words to fill in the sentence below.

The solution is found on page .

1. **Ship**
2. ----
3. ----
4. ----
5. **Boat**

When the 1. **Ship** 2. ---- or lists and the wind blows one of the passenger's hairdo to 3. ----, it drives her 4. ---- and she can't wait to get off the 5. **Boat**.



## Select Board Review July 25, 2023

I've been a little behind in updates the last couple meetings with a lot going on. Here are the highlights that should bring readers up to speed. Police Chief Collins came before us with former officer Tyler Hazel who was seeking to be rehired for the open corporal position. Although as a general policy we do not rehire any town employee, Officer Hazel's circumstance went far beyond a typical scenario and we were very happy to welcome him and his young family back to the department. Our active PD is now well rounded with extremely competent help, as are all town departments.

Surveying of three town owned properties is now nearly complete and encroachments on at least two have been identified. We will now be remedying those issues.

A recent court decision regarding the liability of the Town of Swanzev has been noted by our insurer, Primex, who now says we must rename some sections of roads in Pittsfield. Without going into the minutia, the nuts and bolts of the case is that a house burned to the ground in Swanzev because first responders were sent to a confusing address. There are a few Class 5 (maintained) roads that are interspersed with Class 6 (non-maintained) portions of the same road, with the same name all the way through. Fire, EMT or police could inadvertently (through use of 911) find themselves on the wrong end of a road that is impassable to reach the call location. This can be especially problematic in a mutual-aid situation, and actually has happened with a fire truck stuck in the mud coming from a neighboring town to Pittsfield trying to access an address from the "wrong" end.

So, we find ourselves "on notice" to correct the 911 address requirements, which include (among other things): no use of directions such as north or west or duplicate names but adding "place" or "extension" or "court". Street names must be separate and distinct

6 to avoid confusion. Therefore, despite anticipated pushback, we have no choice but to comply. Residents who live on the affected roads will have an opportunity to suggest names at a public hearing. Name changes will be made so that the least number of addresses will require changing. We know it will be a hassle and we'll keep it to the minimum possible.

Public Works Supervisor Noel Gourley came in with an update on the storm damage resulting from the July 16 deluge that devastated the towns of Pittsfield, Barnstead, Gilmanton and Alton. When the skies opened up just before noon on that Sunday and poured torrents of rain on already saturated ground, sending rivers rushing everywhere, extensive damage occurred here in what the weather bureau described as the epicenter of the storm. In under an hour from when it began it became clear that "all hell broke loose", not only was Pittsfield's entire Public Works crew in action but Noel was getting calls from local dedicated, private contractors offering immediate assistance for anything they could do. Jim Parker, Scott Aubertin, Ben Marston and Charlie Mewkill all jumped in their trucks and worked shoulder to shoulder with town employees throughout the afternoon and into the night. By midnight, all Pittsfield roads were passable for at least one lane and everyone was able to call it a night. In addition, Pittsfield Emergency Management, Fire/EMT Department and Police Department all worked seamlessly and tirelessly to make sure our town suffered the least possible ramifications of this weather event.

The people of Pittsfield should be enormously grateful for the town employees and private citizens that willingly gave up their Sunday and worked in dangerous conditions far into the midnight hour so the rest of us could deal with our personal issues. Road reconstruction and repair will take a while and at no small expense, but it could have been worse and one need look no further than Barnstead and Alton to see that. *Carl Anderson*



### Post-It in the Post

Community groups, businesses, and individuals, please send us your news, opinions, and creative work!  
Deadline is noon on Friday.

Email: [pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org](mailto:pittsfieldnews@pnhcc.org)

Info: [www.PittsfieldNHCommunityCenter.org](http://www.PittsfieldNHCommunityCenter.org)

### 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](http://www.pittsfieldnhcommunitycenter.org)

**Rotary** The then-new idea of public lands — national parks, national forests, and other lands held collectively and managed with public involvement by our democratic government — was controversial. While disagreeing about the priorities for those lands, Muir and Pinchot were united in believing that public lands mattered.

The Rotarians I met immediately connected with this message. That’s what lively small town folk do: set aside differences to get things done. By contrast, in metropolitan areas, I’ve found that people resist the message about collaborating on common goals, especially when I suggest it could work today. Surely the 1890s were different, they say. Ideologies were different, or personalities were different, or the stakes were not as high.

To me, the difference is that today we cluster in like-minded neighborhoods. Our stores, restaurants and media are all ideologically segregated. We wrap our identity in ideology. And we forget how to find common ground.

I say “we” because I do it, too. My attempted justification is the one I mentioned: I’m not a joiner.

But John Muir wasn’t a joiner either. The individualistic mountaineer wasn’t even an official member of the blue-ribbon commission visiting Montana’s Lake McDonald. He just decided to tag along so that he could converse with — and listen to — people who disagreed with him.

In the dramatic results of those conversations, Muir’s essays and interviews of 1896 and 1897 merged his ideas with Pinchot’s to help persuade citizens of the value of public lands.

If we still think of today’s Rotarians as old-fashioned, maybe it’s because they attract members of all stripes who embrace idealistic values about helping people help themselves. I learned, for example, that they work to end the scourge of polio internationally while providing scholarships to high school kids. And they don’t have a political test for pitching in.

They just pick their causes, and then they fight for them.

*John Clayton* is a contributor to *Writers on the Range*, an independent nonprofit that promotes lively dialog about the West. He lives in Montana and is the author of several books including *Natural Rivals: John Muir, Gifford Pinchot, and the Creation of America’s Public Lands*. This story was originally published by *Writers on the Range*.



## FREE Preschool for ages 3-5 years old!

Pittsfield Head Start is located next to the middle school  
and serves surrounding towns.

Hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Two meals provided daily at no cost to families.

Enrolling now for the 2023-2024 school year.

Scan below, visit [www.capbm.org](http://www.capbm.org), or call  
603-225-3295 ext. 1127 for more information



The Post Volunteers are savoring  
summer...

The next **PITTSFIELD POST** will  
be published on August 16.

### Answer to the Word Change by letter puzzle #1.

When the **ship tips** or **lists** and  
the wind blows one of the  
passenger’s hairdo to **bits**, it  
drives her **bats** and she can’t wait  
to get off the **boat**. (h>t, p>b, i>a,  
s>o)